FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

24 FEBRUARY 1984

24 February Middle East & South Asia Review

Iran-Iraq War

The Iranian cities of Khorramabad and Borujerd in Lorestan Province were hit by Iraqi "missiles" after midnight, Tehran radio announced on 24 February. According to IRNA, 80 civilians were killed and 350 were wounded in the attacks. Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i, in remarks cited by Tehran radio's Arabic service, said that on the basis of Iran's policy of "replying in kind," he has instructed the Iranian forces to "open fire at all Iraqi cities" with the exception of the four holy areas. The Iraqi city of Basra is now "completely under the fire" of Iranian artillery, according to an Iranian War Information Headquarters communique broadcast by Tehran radio. Earlier, Iran had refuted Iraqi claims that Iranian forces had shelled the city of Basra, IRNA reported citing an Iranian military announcement. This "baseless claim" shows Iraq's intention to renew its missile and air raids against Iran's civilian areas, the announcement had warned.

Meanwhile, Iranian forces have managed to advance "deep" into Iraqi territory, liberating more than 26 Iraqi villages and consolidating positions in the al-Qurnah region where the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers meet, Iranian military communiques on the Khybar operations broadcast by Tehran radio reported. The number of Iraqi casualties since the start of these operations now exceeds 3,500, one of the communiques added. A spokesman for the Iranian War InformationHeadquarters, in remarks carried by Tehran radio, denied Western "Propaganda" reports that the Iraqi town of Al-Qurnah is under Iraqi control and that Iranian forces never occupied it. Iranian troops are "completely stationed" in the Al-Qurnah region and still control the Al-'Amarah-Basra highway in important places. The "best proof" of these victories can be seen in the recent Iraqi missile attacks against Iranian cities launched from places far from the battlefield, the spokesman concluded. The Iraqi telecommunication system has also been disrupted, Tehran radio reported.

In response to Iranian reports of success in the Khybar operations, an Iraqi administrative official "ridiculed" Iranian claims of occupying the two southern cities of Al-Qurnah and Al-'Aziz, INA reported. The Iraqi Armed Forces General Command communique broadcast by Baghdad radio on 23 February reported the losses of Iranian forces in the battles east of Basra and in the Ash-Shib and Chilat sectors to be 4,773 dead, with a "large number" of wounded and prisoners. Iraqi planes and helicopter gunships successfully carried out a total of 229 missions, safely returning to their bases with the exception of one plane which crashed in enemy territory. "Savage" shelling of the Iraqi civilian areas of Basra, Mandali, Ash-Shihabi, and Sayyid Sadiq resulted in the death of 10 civilians and the wounding of 26 others, the communique added. One Iranian plane was shot down in a dogfight over Iranian territory on 24 February, Baghdad Voice of the Masses radio announced citing an Iraqi military spokesman.

In another development, Iranian foreign affairs minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in a statement carried by Tehran radio, warned that unless international pressure is put on Iraq and "assistance from global arrogance" to it ended, any "insane action" by Iraq or any "act of adventurism" by the United States or any other power will endanger the interests of the West in the region.

Lebanon

Cease-Fire Agreement — A cease-fire agreement will come into effect in Lebanon on 24 February, Saudi Prince Bandar ibn Sultan announced in a Damascus news conference reported by Beirut radio. Prince Bandar explained that the agreement is for a cease-fire only and did not cover such political issues as the continuation or abrogation of the 17 May agreement. Earlier, Prince Bandar met with Syrian foreign minister 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam in the presence of Saudi Mediator Rafiq al-Hariri to discuss the Lebanese situation, Beirut Voice of Lebanon radio reported. Prince Bandar described this meeting as "constructive, fruitful and successful," and added that the Syrian and Saudi sides had expressed "identical" views on all points raised at the discussion. Prince Bandar added that the United States should "bring pressure to bear" on Israel to make it respect this agreement, Voice of Lebanon added.

Military situation — Four Israeli planes bombed the civilian areas of Ru'aysat Sawfar, Bhamdun and 'Alayh on 23 February before Syrian air defense units in the area forced them to return to the occupied territory, a Syrian military spokesman said in a statement carried by Damascus radio.

Political contacts — Before returning to Damascus on 23 February, Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri held additional discussions with President Amin al-Jumayyil and foreign minister Elie Salim on the results of the latest Saudi-Syrian consultations and proposals for solving the Lebanese crisis, Beirut radio reported. According to Phalangist sources cited by Voice of the Mountain radio, the "shah of B'abda" rejected these proposals.

On 23 February, President al-Jumayyil also met with Lebanese front leaders Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil to discuss current political developments, Beirut radio stated. Former President Sham'un said that the discussion was "frank" and that although their views on what decision should be made concerning the 17 May agreement were not identical, there nevertheless was "no disagreement" and they were "cooperating" to solve the problem, the radio added.

In another development, Lebanese forces Commander Fadi Afram called for the partitioning of Lebanon into "sectarian cantons" as it is no longer possible to rebuild it according to its previous structure,the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Afram also called on the Lebanese government to consolidate its relations with Israel in order to neutralize Syrian pressure.

PLO Affairs

The decision to send a high-ranking delegation led by PLO Executive Committee chairman Yasir 'Arafat to Amman within the "next few days" for talks with Jordan's King Husayn was discussed at a 22 February Fatah Central Committee meeting in Tunis, KUNA reported citing a "responsible Palestinian source." The meeting also adopted a decision to convene the movement's general congress no later than 1 May, according to a WAFA report cited by KUNA. Two delegations, one from the PLO and one from Fatah, will go to Moscow for talks with Soviet officials within the next few weeks, WAFA added.

Libya

The "unilateral" decision by the Jordanian Government to sever relations with Libya violates the Arab League Charter and Arab summit resolutions and subsequently raises the question as to the usefulness and meaning of the Arab League itself, JANA reported citing a statement by the Libyan popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison.

Mediation mission — The wife of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived in New Delhi on an "unexpected" mission to halt the escalation of the Iran-Iraq war, KUNA reported. She is bringing a message from Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to Indian Prime Minister Indira Ghandi. Citing "reliable sources," KUNA reports that while the contents of the message are not known, the Libyan leader is concerned about the possibility of a confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union if there is a further escalation in the war, and wants Mrs Ghandi as chairman of the Nonalined Movement to take a "bold initiative" to stop the fighting.

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'Arafat To Visit Amman 'In Next Few Days'

LD231555 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1431 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis, 23 Feb (KUNA) — A responsible Palestinian source said here today that PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat will visit Amman within the next few days, at the head of a high-ranking Palestinian delegation, for talks with Jordanian King Husayn within the framework of Palestinian-Jordanian talks. The source told KUNA the decision to go to Amman was discussed during a meeting of Fatah Central Committee members in Tunisia yesterday which lasted 8 hours. The source said the delegation will consist of Khalil al-Wazir, Khalid al-Hasan and Mahmud 'Abbas, and will be joined later by Hani al-Hasan who is at present in the United States.

The source said the Palestinian-Jordanian talks will cover the results of King Husayn's visits to the United States and Britain and relations between the PLO and Jordan, in addition to the situation in occupied Palestine and the occupied Arab territories, the Jewish settlements and the escalation of terrorism by Zionists against the Arab population. The source pointed out that the talks will include a review of current bilateral and collective Arab conditions as well as the international situation and the feasibility of starting new moves for an Arab summit conference to inject life into the inactive Arab situation.

PLO, Fatah Delegations To Visit Moscow

LD231548 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1514 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis 23 Feb (KUNA) — The Palestine new agency, WAFA, said here today that the Fatah Central Committee adopted a decision at its meetings in Tunis yesterday afternoon to convene the general congress of the movement on a date not later than the first of next May. The agency also said that two delegations from the PLO and from Fatah will go to Moscow in the next few weeks to hold talks with Soviet officials on the developments concerning the Palestinian issue.

Al-Hasan on Jordan Embassy Attack, Relations

JN241047 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Tunis — PETRA — Khalid al-Hasan, PLO Executive Committee member, has denied that there is any relation between the Palestinian resistance factions and the assault against the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli. Al-Hasan said that the Palestinian resistance factions under the PLO do not believe that terrorism and political assassination are their path, and thatthere are no differences in political stands with Jordan. Al-Hasan said that we do not have a presence in Libya, and those who are there are merely agents of the Libyan regime. They are under its command and carry out its instructions. Al-Hasan praised Jordanian-Palestinian relations. He said that these relations are at the best level of their history.

PLO Radio Reports Attacks on Israeli Forces

JN231833 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The operations of the Palestinian and nationalist Lebanese resistance are escalating against the Zionist occupation forces in southern Lebanon. A group of the Palestinian and nationalist Lebanese resistance has attacked a Zionist military patrol in Sidon in southern Lebanon, using machineguns and hand grenades, wounding or killing a number of enemy soldiers. A spokesman of the invasion forces had admitted this attack and claimed no casualties. The spokesman said his forces cordoned off the area immediately and futilely combed the area in search of those who carried out the attack. Eyewitnesses said that the Zionist invasion forces opened fire arbitrarily, killing a civilian and wounding others.

Another group also attacked the headquarters of the Zionist invasion in Sidon this morning with rockets, scoring direct hits and killing or wounding a large number of enemy soldiers. The Zionist spokesman admitted this attack and, as usual, did not disclose its losses. The spokesman added that Israeli forces cordoned off the area, closed all the roads leading to the scene of the attack, and launched an arrest campaign against the citizens to interrogate them. It is worth noting that this headquarters includes the Zionist intelligence organ.

Klibi Receives Iraq's Arab League Representative

JN200718 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1945 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis, 20 Feb (INA) — Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi met here today with Nuri Isma'il al-Wa'is, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League. The Iraqi officials briefed Klibi on the nature of the latest Iranian aggression against Iraq, which had been defeated. He also informed him that Iraq welcomes the UN proposal on the formation of a factfinding mission that will visit Iraq and Iran and about Iraq's call to the United Nations to shoulder its responsibility for the implementation fo UN Security Council Resolution 504. During the meeting, Klibi briefed the Iraqi officials on the results of his recent visit to the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

KUWAIT

Press Laments Escalation of Iran-Iraq War

LD231115 Kuwait KUNA in English 1005 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 23 (KUNA) — Kuwaiti dailies warned Thursday of the current Iranian-Iraqi war escalation, "which threatens to internationlize the war."

The daily *AR-RA'Y AL-'AAM* commented on Iran's current offensive against Iraq by saying: "It seems that Tehran wants to internationalize the war, because it's impossible that it is ignorant of what the war's escalation, and the extension of its splinters to the Gulf region, means."

The paper referred to the American and British fleets which are moving to protect the Strait of Hormuz, which Iran threatened to close, and said: "Tehran is aware that the Gulf according to the big powers is not Lebanon, because in this region (the Gulf) they will come on the pretext of protecting their interests and will not withdraw as they did in Lebanon." On the other hand, the paper warned that the "fire (of the war) is threatening to convert the entire Arab region into a war region."

The daily pointed to Iran's "stubbornness" to respond to the calls for ending the war, and said: "It might be understandable if the Iranian stubbornness was maintained as long as the war is only between Iraq and Iran, but it is not understandable when the big powers' fleets are getting ready to play in the region."

The daily *AS-SIYASSAH* commented on Iran's announcement that it had one million of its people "ready to attack Iraq" by saying: "What will the Iranian people have to say about their leaders in the future when a large majority become war victims?"

On the gathering of the one million Iranians at the Iraqi border, the daily asked: "Is the penetration of the Iraqi border worth the killing of hundreds of thousands of people and the squandering of money in billions from Iran's national wealth?"

On the other hand, *AS-SIYASSAH* expressed hope that the Iranian people will understand that "somebody is leading them to destruction and tragedy."

Lawyers Protest Arab Human Rights Violations

GF231058 Kuwait ARAB TIMES in English 22 Feb 84 p 4

[Text] Lawyers in Kuwait yesterday observed a one-hour sit-in to protest "violation of Arab human rights by Arab political systems."

A new release by the Kuwait Lawyers Association called on all lawyers to join the one-hour strike and file a protest in their court sessions. The release did not mention names of the countries it was condemning for human rights violations. The release went on to say that all Arab political prisoners should be freed immediately, particularly the lawyers among them.

It is estimated that 200 lawyers joined the strike, which was called by the Arab Lawyers Union at its last meeting in Tunis.

PDRY

SFRY's President Spiljak To Visit 28 Feb

GF231740 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpt] At the invitation of Brother 'Ali Nasir Muhammad, secretary general of the YSP Central Committee, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and chairman of the Council of Ministers, Comrade Mika Spiljak, president of the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, will pay an official visit to the PDRY from 28 February to 1 March.

During his visit, the Yugoslav president will hold talks on friendship and bilateral cooperation and the means to strengthen them, in addition to issues of mutual interest.

PFLP's Mustafa, Delegation Conclude Visit

GF231734 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], led by Brother Abu 'Ali Mustafa, assistant PFLP secretary general, left Aden this morning after a visit to our country, during which it held talks with officials of the YSP leadership on the recent developments in the Palestinian issue and developments in the situation in the Arab arena.

In a statement to ANA, Brother Abu 'Ali Mustafa expressed his satisfaction with the results of the talks, and described them as useful, dealing with current and important policies. He said that during these talks the importance of working together in order to play a progressive role in confronting all the U.S.-Zionist plans in the Arab region were discussed, as well as the importance of the PLO's leadership and its national program for safeguarding its vanguard role against the Zionist enemy.

The PFLP delegation was seen off by Brother Mahmud an-Najashi, member of the YSP Central Committee and deputy secretary of the Central Committee; Brother 'Abbas Zaki, the PLO representative in the PDRY; PFLP and DFLP representatives in Aden; and a number of other officials.

SAUDI ARABIA

Turkey's Evren Continues Official Visit

Meets With King Fahd

TA230543 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 0430 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpt] President Kenan Evren, who is on an official visit to Saudi Arabia, held another meeting with King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz last night. The meeting was held at the palace where President Evren is staying and lasted about 3 hours.

Guntac Aktan, Nejat Ozkan and Muhsin Cifteler from the Turkish radio and television news center report that after the meeting, the president replied to reporters' questions. He said that Turkey and Saudi Arabia share the same views regarding regional problems. He pointed out that both countries are uneasy about the restlessness in the region and want to end that situation. The president stressed that Turkey will continue to exert efforts to bring about a solution that will ensure stability in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, State Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Kaya Erdem, who is in Saudi Arabia along with President Evren, held a meeting last night with Minister of Finance and National Economy Muhammad al-'Ali Aba al-Khayl. The development of economic and commercial relations between the two countries was discussed.

Evren Tours Al-Jubayl

TA231030 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 1000 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] President Kenan Evren is touring the industrial city of Al-Jubayl on the third day of his visit to Saudi Arabia.

Guntac Aktan, Nejat Ozkan, and Muhsin Cifteler from the Turkish radio and television news center report that President Evren flew to Al-Jubayl on the Persian Gulf aboard a special plane this morning. He attended a meeting organized at the Royal Committee headquarters, and was briefed on the city and its industrial installations. The president then toured the residential areas, the Institute for Developing the Labor Force, and certain industrial installations.

The president will return to Riyadh this afternoon. He will visit Jidda and Mecca tomorrow, and will return to Turkey on Saturday.

More on Al-Jubayl Visit

LD231533 Riyadh SPA in English 1217 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Al-Jubayl, Feb 23, SPA — Turkish President Kenan Evren arrived in Al-Jubayl today from Riyadh in the framework of his current visit to the Kingdom which began on Tuesday.

President Evren is accompanied by Education Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Khuwaytir, Saudi Ambassador to Turkey Salih al-Suqayr, and his accompanying delegation. He was received on arrival by Planning Minister Hisham Nazir and a number of officials.

Crown Prince 'Abdallah Visits UK for Talks

For SPA reportage on the visit to the United Kingdom by Deputy Prime Minister and Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, including his talks with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on the Middle East, Lebanon and the Iran-Iraq war, see the 23 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT*, and subsequent issues.

Tunisian President's Adviser Departs After Visit

GF231742 Jidda Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Habib Bourguiba Jr., the Tunisian president's adviser and chairman of the Tunisian Economic Development Bank, left Jidda today after few days' visit to the Kingdom.

During his visit, the Tunisian official held talks with a number of officials on issues of mutual interest.

UAE

Writers Union Supports AL-KHALIJ Stance

GF240606 Ash-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 23 Feb 84 pp 1, 14

[Text of the 22 February statement by the Secretariat of the General Union of the Palestinian Writers and Journalists, issued in Damascus: "We Object to This Protest"]

[Text] This is not the first time, nor will it be last that the United States, its information media, embassies, and officials find a pretext to interfere in our Arab affairs without the least bit of shame, decency, respect, or commitment to national sovereignty or human rights — an issue upon which the United States has shed tears since the annihilation of the red Indians right up to the Sabra and Shatila massacre.

While the United States makes a fuss over human rights and complains about "Arab terrorism," in addition to the incidents it says are carried out by Palestinian and Lebanese elements, it is trying to cover up the massacres it is responsible for in Lebanon and those carried out in Palestine, Lebanon, the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and the Golan by U.S.-backed Zionists. It is also trying to cover up its conspiracy against all progressive groups and nationalists and every voice which demands the right of freedom of expression and the restoration of usurped rights.

It regards the bid of the Lebanese to restore their national unity and the desire of the Palestinians to return to their homeland, as excessive; while at the same time, the rapid deployment forces have spread like tumors on the body of the Arab homeland.

Without considering the Arab right to express sympathy and solidarity with a brother Arab, the U.S. Embassy in the UAE has addressed an accusatory message to the Arabic-language newspaper *AL-KHALIJ*, branding it and its writers as supporters of terrorism. Why? Because this newspaper has demanded the departure of the Marines from Lebanon and demanded the end of the Zionist invasion of the Lebanese homeland, and the liquidation of its French and Phalangist tails.

It would have been better for the United States and its embassy to denounce the Sabra and Shatila massacre and the Zionist and Phalangist sabotage operations in southern Beirut, and to denounce the sabotage, assassinations, and car bombings which have been planned and carried out by its agents and mercenaries in Lebanon.

O Americans, you have spread terrorism to every corner of this planet, from Vietnam to El Salvador, and will continue to do so until your imperialist existence ends.

We, in the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists find the stance of the newspaper *AL-KHALIJ* and its progressive Arab writers to be one with our Palestinian people and their revolution, with the Lebanese people and their revolution, and with every progressive Arab, a true expression of pan-Arabism and nationalism which will strengthen Arab solidarity.

[Signed] Bassam Abu Sharif, on behalf of the Secretariat of the General Union of Palestinian Writers and Journalists

Ghali To Present Egyptian Initiative on Chad

JN231322 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0715 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has authorized Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, to present an Egyptian proposal to hold a Chadian reconciliation conference between Hissein Habre and Goukouni Queddi in a neutral capital, possibly Geneva, and to assert Egypt's readiness to assume a role in this reconciliation.

In a statement to the newspaper *AL-JUMHURIYAH* published today, Dr Ghali stated that he will bring up Egypt's proposal in the meetings he will hold during the ICO ministerial conference which begins in Addis Ababa next Monday. The newspaper says that Dr Ghali will go to Khartoum on Saturday, before he goes to Addis Ababa, to continue the talks Egypt is holding to reconcile Sudan and Ethiopia. In the statement, Dr Ghali said that the ICO agrees unanimously that the government of President Hissein Habre should represent Chad in the ICO, that there is a need to settle the existing conflict, and that the ICO ministerial meeting will be a good opportunity to discuss reconciliation. Dr Ghali added that the new Egyptian move to achieve reconciliation in Chad parallels the Egyptian role aimed at achieving reconciliation between Sudan and Ethiopia. This is in order to prevent military confrontation which could create many problems, and which could open the door to foreign interference and allow the effects of the cold war to enter this vital part of Africa. He noted that it would be for the benefit of Sudan and Ethiopia to begin a dialogue in order to achieve a peaceful solution and reach a mutual understanding.

Dr Ghali continued: The historical ties, traditional bonds and common interests between Ethiopia and Sudan are stronger than the differences between the two countries. Dr Ghali said that the reasons behind the deteriorating situation between the countries arethe cessation of dialogue and the lack of confidence. He called for a resumption of the dialogue, to rebuild bridges of confidence between them.

On the Western Sahara, Dr Ghali said that this problem could lead to a boycott of the ICO ministerial meeting because of differences on this issue, and the existence of supporters and opponents.

Mubarak Receives Message From Morocco's Hassan

JN230905 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0712 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — The newspaper *AL-AKHBAR* today says that President Husni Mubarak has received a message from King Hassan II of Morocco, informing President Mubarak of the ICO resolution to readmit Egypt to the ICO.

AL-AKHBAR Views Alleged U.S.-PLO Contacts

PM231001 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 21 Feb 84 p 5

[Editorial: "Inevitability of U.S.-Palestinian Dialogue"]

[Text] It was revealed a few days ago that the United States held secret talks with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat for nine months before the Israeli invasion of Lebanon, and that the negotiations stopped after the invasion, or because of it. The U.S. sources which divulged this secret also maintain that the negotiations centered on the question of PLO recognition of Israel in return for U.S. recognition of the PLO as a prelude to a peace process that would settle the Palestinian problem, end the Palestinian people's immense suffering of the last 35 years, and end the horrifying divisions which have afflicted the entire Middle East because, and as a result of the Palestinian problem.

This story of backstage negotiations between U.S. President Ronald Reagan's administration and Palestinian Leader Yasir 'Arafat raises many questions. One question is: Why did the Israeli invasion take place immediately after the conclusion of these negotiations and only 1 week before the United States was informed of the PLO's final position, according to U.S. sources?

A subsequent question is: Did Israel learn from the United States about these negotiations and then invade Lebanon to abort the entire process and preserve the terrible state of fragmentation in the Middle East?

A third question is: Why did the United States not prevent the Israeli invasion, which everybody had expected, in order to complete the diplomatic process which had continued for 9 months and during which, it was noticed, the PLO refrained from carrying out any fedayeen operations against Israel across the Lebaese-Israeli borders, despite continuous Israeli provocations?

Although the U.S. Administration has denied that such negotiations were held in the reported manner, the U.S. State Department spokesman frankly admitted that the U.S. Administration did hold contacts with numerous personalities with PLO connections through an open channel, with the aim of promoting a peaceful settlement.

In any event, the Israeli invasion did occur and was followed by terrible atrocities, divisions, and pain in the Middle East, and the United States was provided with irrefutable evidence that violence breeds violence, fire breeds more fire, and vengeance breeds vengeance.

Therefore, we call on the United States to accept the principles of dialogue with the PLO as urged by President Husni Mubarak at the conclusion of his U.S. visit. We assure the United States that dialogue is the only guaranteed alternative solution. We warn against any fresh contemplation of violence by Israel. We must also remind the United States that a U.S.-PLO dialogue is inevitable and that the Palestinian cause has not died and will never die. We also remind Israel of this fact, because it is at the very center of the Middle East conflict.

UK Renews Participation in Sinai Force

NC231213 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 23 Feb (MENA) — Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, has met with the British ambassador in Cairo, Michael Weir. The British ambassador officially

conveyed to Dr Ghali the British Government's decision to renew the participation of its forces in the Multinational Force in Sinai for another year.

Official Supports Sudan Against 'Sabotage'

NC231921 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Dr Muhammad Subhi 'Abd al-Hakim, alternate head of the Popular Organizations Integration Committee and Egyptian Consultative Council speaker, announced that the Egyptian Government and people will firmly stand by the Sudanese Government and people against any acts aimed at sabotaging developmental projects and national unity in Sudan. Dr 'Abd al-Hakim said the following:

[Begin recording] We stress the need for opening the channels for an objective dialogue as a means to overcome differences. We call on the outlaws to lay down their arms and return to the homeland and abide by the principles of the Addis Ababa agreement. We affirm that a constructive and objective dialogue is the only means to stability and the return of peace. Both peoples of the Nile valley are in dire need of stability, security, and freedom from differences so that calm will return to southern Sudan and its people will enjoy the development and stability they aspire for.

The atmosphere will thus become clear, in order to strengthen the bonds of national unity, to build the edifice of integration and development, and to achieve prosperity and progress north and south of the Nile valley. [end recording]

Nile Valley Committee Meetings Held in Cairo

JN172121 Khartoum SUNA in English 1740 GMT 17 Feb 84

[Text] Cairo, 17 Feb, (SUNA) — The Nile Valley Parliament's national security and political integration committee has affirmed the importance of expanding communication links between the two brotherly peoples in both Egypt and the Sudan, particularly in the field of economic integration. The announcement came at the conclusion of the committee meetings here yesterday.

In the sphere of foreign policy, the committee stressed the need for Arab solidarity, Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands and affirmed that the Palestine Liberation Organization was the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. It further appealed to both Iran and Iraq to end their war and opt for a negotiated peaceful solution.

Armed Forces Communique No 1,383 — 23 Feb
JN231756 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1705 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Communique No 1,383 issued by Armed Forces General Command on 23 February 1984]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

Say: Perish in your rage; God knoweth well all the secrets of the heart. [Koranic verse]

With brave assaults and competition to wage the battles of justice, honor, and pride against the expansionist Khomeyniite ambitions, and with a heroic enthusiasm to deal further crushing and fatal blows to the criminal enemy and inflict the heaviest losses on its defeated forces and disappointed remnants, the glorious Iraqis are continuing their persevering struggle and epic-like fighting in defense of the honor of great Iraq and the might of its people, emphasizing their continuous readiness to fight the defeated aggressors and turn their designs against them. It is God who grants victory and success.

The results are as follows:

1. Following the great victories scored by our heroic Armed Forces in the III and IV Army Corps' sectors when these forces bravely confronted, crushed, and destroyed the aggressor Iranian forces, which were aimed against Iraq's pure land and sacred soil, the enemy's known losses sustained during the immortal battles which took place last night and today east of Basra and within the operational area of the III Army Corps have been counted. The losses sustained opposite the positions of the heroic Al-Muthanna forces only amounted to 3,347 dead, a large number of wounded and prisoners, and the destruction of 12 tanks, 3 armored personnel carriers, 5 trucks, 4 bulldozers, and a large quantity of various types of weapons and equipment. A large number of serviceable weapons and equipment was seized.

The enemy's known losses during the battles of the night before yesterday and yesterday in the Ash-Shib and Chilat sectors in the operational area of the IV Army Corps amounted to 1,426 dead, a very large number of wounded and POW's, the destruction of quantities of various types of weapons and equipment, and the seizure of a large quantity of serviceable weapons and equipment.

2. All day long today, our daring fighter planes continued to attack and destroy the enemy units and both troop and vehicular concentrations in the operational area of the heroic III Army Corps. These attacks were successful and inflicted on the enemy large losses in personnel, weapons, and equipment. All our fighter planes returned safely to base after carrying out their missions, except for one fighter plane which crashed over the enemy territory. We hold the Iranian side responsible for the safety of its pilot.

Our fighter planes today carried out 94 combat missions.

3. Our capable helicopter gunships today carried out concentrated raids on the enemy positions and troop concentrations in the Maysan and east of Basra sectors, scoring direct and very serious hits, killing or wounding a large number of the enemy personnel, and destroying a number of the enemy vehicles, excavators, and various types of equipment. Meanwhile, other formations of our helicopter gunships continued their splendid support of the III Army Corps' units last night and today in crushing the criminal enemy offensive and destroying its aggressor forces. All our helicopters in the abovementioned sectors returned safely to base, praise be to God.

Our helicopter gunships today carried out 135 combat missions.

4. Our forward units opened artillery fire on an enemy troop concentration opposite our positions in the central sector of the battlefield, killed 17, wounded others, and forced the rest to flee.

5. Two of the criminal enemy's fighter planes raided the residential areas in the villages of (?Al-'Aziz) and Qal'at Salih in the Maysan Governorate at 1510 today. Our air defense means intercepted them and forced them to flee. The enemy raid resulted in damaging one house, and two civilian cars. The criminals ruling in Iran shelled Basra, Mandali, Ash-Shihabi, and Sayyid Sadiq and its suburbs with heavy artillery yesterday evening and today. The savage enemy shelling led to the martyrdom of 10 civilians, the injury of 26 others, the destruction of 1 civilian car, and the damage of another car in Basra. It also resulted in damaging several civilian establishments in Mandali and the demolition of three houses in Ash-Shihabi.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 23 February 1984

Husayn, Mubarak, Klibi, 'Arafat Contact President
JN232214 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan; Egyptian President Husni Mubarak; Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League; and Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee contacted President Saddam Husayn yesterday [23 February] to reassure themselves about Iraq's position on the battlefronts. The president-leader thanked them for their fraternal interest and reassured them of Iraq's ability and strength to confront the Iranian aggression against our country and nation.

Tariq 'Aziz Sends Messages to Arab League, UN
JN232235 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has sent a message to Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi emphasizing the need for all the Arab countries to abide by their obligations under the resolutions of the 12th Arab summit conference, which was held in Fes in September 1982, concerning the Iraq-Iran war and the Arab attitude toward it. Tariq 'Aziz requested Chedli Klibi to remind the Arab states of those obligations and to urge them to fulfill them and to take any effective measures which the Arab League secretary general deems fit to

implement the Fes resolutions. The following is the text of the message:

His Excellency Brother Chedli Klibi, secretary general of the Arab League: Greetings. Undoubtedly, you are following with great concern the recent serious developments of the Iranian aggression against Iraq, especially what the Iranian officials announced several weeks ago about their intention to launch a large-scale offensive against Iraq to occupy Iraqi territories, towns, and villages and violate Iraq's freedom, honor, and independence prior to controlling other parts of the Arab homeland.

The behavior of the Iranian regime in recent days assumed a serious nature when that regime actually began implementing its plan by launching successive attacks on Iraq. On the night of 22-23 February 1984, the Iranian regime carried out the plan of its big offensive. With God's help, however, Iraq succeeded in crushing all these attacks and completely destroying the forces of the aggressors. Your brothers in Iraq will continue to firmly confront the aggressors and crush their attacks regardless of their numbers and size.

In light of this escalation in the Iranian aggression and the evil intentions it entails against the Arab region and world peace and security, I am sure you agree with me that as far as the Arab states are concerned, they must be reminded of the resolution, which was adopted by the 12th Arab summit conference held in Fes in September 1982, concerning the Gulf war and the Arab attitude toward it. That resolution affirmed the importance of the obligations under Article 6 of the Arab League Charter and Article 2 of the collective defense pact and economic cooperation among the states of the Arab League. The resolution also announces the Arab states' readiness to carry out their obligations toward Iraq under the charter if Iran does not respond to the summit's resolution and continues its war against Iraq in its attempt to enter into its international territory.

Since Iran has not responded to the appeal of this Arab League resolution, and continued its defiance of UN resolutions and all other peaceful initiatives, and in fact derided them and escalated its aggression against Iraq as is obvious from its current military operations, it has become essential for all the Arab states to fulfill their obligations under the Fes summit resolution.

Needless to say, the first of these obligations calls on the Arab states to strongly condemn this blatant Iranian aggression and to affirm their support for Iraq in its just battle in defense of its sovereignty and the basic rights of the Arab nation.

Convinced of the deep sorrow and concern caused to you by this war, which has been imposed on us by the Iranian regime, we are certain that you will spare no effort in reminding the Arab states of their aforementioned obligations and urge them to fulfill them and that you will take any other effective measures which you deem suitable in implementation of the resolution under discussion.

Kindly accept my highest esteem and appreciation.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, foreign minister of Iraq

Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, also sent a message to Javier Perez de Cuellar, secretary general of the United Nations, in which he affirmed that Iraq has taken and will take all measures to protect its sovereignty, security, and the lives of its citizens. The foreign minister renewed Iraq's firm stand and desire to end the fighting and solve the dispute with Iran by peaceful means. The following is text of the message:

Secretary General of the United Nations: I would like to inform you that the Iranian regime has been announcing, frankly, over the past few weeks its intentions to carry out a new large- scale military offensive against Iraq with the aim of penetrating Iraq's international border and occupying Iraqi towns and villages. This is what the Iranian officials have boasted of more than once in their statements.

I would also like to inform you that the Iranian regime's forces actually began this offensive on the night of 22-23 February 1984. Our Armed Forces, in their duty to defend the homeland, confronted the attackers and crushed their offensive. The battles still continue on a large scale on our eastern border. We would like to draw your attention and also the attention of the UN Security Council to the fact that this aggression, which is aimed against the security of our country, sovereignty, and the lives of our citizens, constitutes a serious escalation of the situation. By this aggression, the Iranian regime proves once against its determination to threaten security and stability in the region on a larger scale than in the previous years.

On this occasion, we would like to explain to you and the international community that in accordance with the legitimate right of self-defense, Iraq has taken and will take all the necessary measures to protect its sovereignty, security, and the lives of its citizens. We will certainly use all the effective and deterrent means in our power to crush the aggression and to prove to the aggressor that its aggression will not go unpunished. The Iranian regime alone assumes the full responsibility for all the consequences of its aggressions.

I would like to reaffirm to you Iraq's firm stand in its desire to end the fighting and to solve the dispute on peaceful bases. We have established this stand through our continuous cooperation with you and our readiness to abide by the UN Security Council resolutions. We hope that you will take necessary and effective steps to stop the policy of aggression and adventure pursued by the Iranian rulers. Our request is in harmony with the resolutions which the Security Council has previously adopted and we request the secretary general to follow up their implementation.

Kindly accept my highest esteem.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, foreign minister of Iraq

250,000 Iranians Fighting in Area East of Basra

JN231700 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1640 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Basra, 23 Feb (INA) — Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, has announced that Iran mobilized 250,000 persons in its offensive against Iraq in the area east of Basra.

In a statement to an INA correspondent in Basra today, he said that groups of Iranian forces tried to get a foothold in the marshes area in southern Iraq, but the Iraqi fighters strongly crushed this offensive. He emphasized that Iraq's victories over Iran will remain a source of pride for all the Arabs because they were the decisive reply to the international plot against Iraq and its development and progress.

Before his return to Baghdad at noon today, Staff Gen 'Adnan Kayrallah met with the commander of the III Army Corps and the field commanders of the military formations. He also inspected the military units east of Basra.

Regarding the Iranian claims on the occupation of parts of Iraqi territory east of Basra, the Iraqi defense minister said: I invite the Iranian official who claimed that to a meal. He added: However, this official should bring with him to the meal, which will be given by the II Army Crops commander, some of his soldiers and some Iranian newsmen.

The defense minister emphasized that everyone knows that the Iranian regime lies about the progress of fighting.

Report on Basra Relay Radio Behavior

GF241114 [Editorial Report] The Basra relay of Baghdad's Voice of the Masses radio in Arabic was unheard on 693 khz at 1100 GMT on 24 February. Normally the station is monitored with good reception by FBIS on 693 khz. Other transmitters of the Voice of the Masses were monitorable at that time.

Stockholm: Sweden Asked To Arrange Cease-Fire
LD241142 Stockholm International Service in Swedish 1000 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] Iraq wants to end the war with Iran as soon as possible, and its charge d'affaires in Stockholm has appealed to the Swedish Government to try to bring about a cease-fire. Iraqi diplomat Amir Naji has turned to Prime Minister Olof Palme, who has been entrusted by UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar with the task of trying to mediate in the conflict. Palme thinks that at present there are no prospects for a cease-fire because one side, Iran, is resolutely opposed to a cease-fire. However, the Prime Minister is following developments and is in continual contact with the secretary-general.

Announcement 24 Feb Says Iranians Defeated in Basra
JN240730 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0655 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Unscheduled announcement]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Fight them, and God will punish them by your hands; cover them with shame, help you to victory over them, heal the breasts of the believers. [Koranic verse]

To Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and president of the republic, from the II Army Corps commander:

We congratulate Your Excellency, our great people, and our victorious Armed Forces on the decisive victory that was scored by your righteous soldiers, the heroes of the III Army Corps. The intrepidity and determination of these men, who have fulfilled and excelled what they had pledged to Your Excellency in terms of outstanding courage and fighting, wiped out the attacking force. At dawn today, your soldiers scored a brilliant victory. Thus, they brought us glad tidings — and what great tidings did they bring us. It is a splendid victory.

President-leader, as you expected, the enemy has fallen from its wounds on the soil of steadfast Basra. The enemy's attempt was desperate and its defeat humiliating. We pledge to Your Excellency that we will remain your brave soldiers, following your example, and will remain inspired by your determination, strong will, and courage in defending the borders of our beloved Iraq. May you live as a triumphant leader of our beloved Iraq. God grants victory and success.

[Signed] The staff major general, the commander of the II Army Corps, 24 February 1984.

Baghdad Comments 24 Feb on Defeat of Iranians
JN241034 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0920 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Unscheduled commentary]

[Text] We are confident of victory because we have faith in God, in our leader Saddam Husayn, and in his righteous soldiers. We are confident of victory because we have stronger weapons, better preparations, more supplies, deeper faith, and a firmer determination. We are confident of victory because we are right and our enemy is wrong — as Saddam Husayn, the engineer of our victories, has stated. We will continue to be confident until the final decisive victory is scored and the enemies sustain the most humiliating defeat. How can we not be confident, we who possess all the components of steadfastness and all the material and moral requisites for victory?

We have never harbored illusions in our dispute with the aggressors. We always made accurate calculations, and all of our calculations proved to be sound. We only cherished the legitimate human dream of remaining free and secure in a free and secure homeland, whose prosperity and development will be built by its sons and not at the expense of anyone. This is our dream and the dream of all people. We fight to materialize it through hard work and persistence.

As for our enemies, they are the enemies of this dream because they want to kill this dream and kill us. They want to wipe out our hopes, destroy every flower in our gardens, and demolish every wall and plant. They want to poison every loaf, and pollute every drop of water. These are our enemies. How can our men not fight in such a manner and excell in such a heroice manner? These are our enemies. How can we not prepare to confront them with all the force and weapons that we can muster? How can our

minds not devise new methods for wiping them out? We have wiped them out as we had planned; we have exterminated them as we wanted. Their bodies are now littering the soil of Basra and the Hoveyzah woods. Blessed be the leader; happiness fills the hearts of all Iraqis. As for their masters, they only have their lies. One wonders whether one must ridicule or pity them?

Basra remains lofty; Al-Qurnah is proud of Adam's tree; Al-'Uzayr lies peacefully on the banks of the (Hawr); the Basra-Baghdad highway is open and secure; and only the aggressors' corpses descrate the Hoveyzah waters. We have triumphed. We say this with hearts full of faith, and it has rightfully been proven that God champions those who have faith.

F-14 Plane Downed 24 Feb Over Khafajiyeh

JN241037 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. At 0945 today, in dogfight between our daring fighter aircraft and the frustrated enemy aircraft, one enemy F-14 aircraft was shot down over Khafajiyeh [Susangerd] inside enemy territory. All of our fighter aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

[Dated] 24 February 1984

Iranian Plane Shot Down 24 Feb in Ash-Shib Area

JN241231 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1220 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Two enemy fighter aircraft tried to raid our forward positions in the Ash-Shib area of the IV Army Corps' operational sector. Our able air defense means confronted them and, at 1445 today, shot down one aircraft. It was seen crashing in flames over Iranian territory, while the other enemy aircraft fled.

[Dated] 24 February 1984

TANJUG: Newsmen Find No Iranians in Al-Qurnah

LD232124 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2052 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Al-Qurnah, southern Iraq, 23 Feb (TANJUG) — A group of foreign correspondents who visited the Iraqi town of Al-Qurnah, in southern Iraq, about 30 km from the border, tonight were unable to find any evidence of Iranian forces in the town or its vicinity. Iran had announced, as is well known, that its forces had broken through into this town today, at the same time severing the important road from Baghdad to Basra. During the visit this evening, the town appeared to be living a quite normal life. The streets were lit, there were lights in apartments and here and there there were people in the streets. The governor of Al-Qurnah and a group of other officials in the town stated that the Iranian forces had launched an attack in the direction of the town and that they had been allowed to approach to within about 12 km and were then surrounded and destroyed. The battle, they said, started at 2200 local time last night and ended at 1000 this morning. According to them about 1,500 Iranian soldiers were killed and 50 captured.

Baghdad TV Relays Al-Qurnah Masses' Gathering

JN232021 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Al-Qurnah, Southern Iraq, 23 Feb (INA) — Baghdad television tonight screened a film on a massive gathering in the streets of Al-Qurnah in southern Iraq today, during which the masses expressed delight at the Iraqi forces' defeat of the Iranian offensive in the area east of Basra. The television also screened the tour which 'Abd al-Ghani 'Abd al-Ghafur, Ba'th Party Regional Command member, made tonight in the Al-Qurnah district and his meeting with the administrative and party officials in the district.

4,763 Iranians Killed in Recent Offensive

JN231702 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1655 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA) — It was announced here tonight that the losses of the Iranian forces east of Basra and in the Ash-Shib and Chilat sectors amount to 4,763 dead. Military Communique No 1,383, issued here tonight, said that the Iraqi fighter planes and helicopter gunships carried out 229 combat missions against the Iranian units and troop concentrations east of Basra today.

INA: Baghdad TV Screens Film on Iranian Losses

JN231845 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1825 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 23 Feb (INA) — Baghdad television tonight screened a film about the Iranian losses, showing corpses of Iranian soldiers piled up at the edges of some Iraqi positions east of Basra. The television also screened shots of other Iranians captured by the Iraqi forces and the wounded being given medical treatment. This was the third film presented by the television today. It indicates the heavy losses sustained by the Iranian forces which attacked the area east of Basra last night.

Iran Urged To Remove Corpses From Battlefield

JN241042 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1010 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Baghdad, 24 Feb (INA) — Latif Nusayyif Jasim, Iraqi minister of culture and information, has appealed to international humanitarian organizations to urge the Iranian Government to remove its dead from the no-man's land in the III and IV Army Corps sectors. The Iraqi minister told INA that this appeal is based on humanitarian considerations in order to prevent the decomposition or disfigurement of these bodies which would occur if they remain in the open.

Libyan Charge Informed Relations Severed

JN241021 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Feb 84 p 1

[Text] Amman — *AR-RA'Y* — The Foreign Ministry summoned the Libyan charge d'affaires in Amman yesterday and officially informed him of the resolution the Council of Ministers adopted to sever political and diplomatic relations with Libya.

Text of 'Ubaydat Statement

JN222030 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1220 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Statement by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Ubaydat delivered in House of Representatives in Amman on 22 February — recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr Speaker, respected members. Two days ago, I spoke before the esteemed Senate about the circumstances that evolved around the act of aggression against the Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Tripoli, the capital of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. I mentioned several points concerning the behavior of the Libyan authorities before, during, and after the incident. I also referred to the government's measures taken through the Foreign Ministry — recalling the ambassador and the deputy chief of the Jordanian mission to Amman with the greatest possible speed and summoning the Libyan charge d'affaires in Amman to inform him of the government's preliminary stand toward the incident. I also said that we postponed any decision concerning Jordanian-Libyan relations until the Jordanian ambassador returned to Amman and the picture became completely clear.

What I want to add in this matter today can be summarized in two points. The first is the developments in the Libyan Government's position toward the incident, and the second concerns the information which we obtained following the ambassador's arrival.

As for the first point, there is nothing new. The contacts which were held between the Libyan charge d'affaires and the Jordanian Foreign Ministry and the contacts between the Jordanian ambassador in Tripoli and the Libyan authorities — contacts which I referred to in the Senate session — did not go beyond regrets expressed by the Libyan secretary of foreign liaison, who is equivalent to the foreign minister in any Arab state. The secretary promised to exert all possible efforts to improve Jordanian-Libyan relations in the future. He insisted on stressing the point that this incident should not be a cause for harming what he called good bilateral relations.

The Libyan charge d'affaires in Amman was careful to express his good and humanitarian sentiments toward the Jordanian people and his personal desire and commitment that Jordanian-Libyan relations would not deteriorate further as a result of the premeditated attack on the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli. We thanked him twice on this good gesture. We never received anything else.

The Libyan stand as a whole was not on a responsible level that is commensurate with the Jordanian Government's evaluation of the incident. Moreover, had there been good will, At-Turayki's apology to our ambassador would have been coupled with a halt to Libya's continuing media campaign against the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan — king, government, people, and policy.

However, Libyan television continued to broadcast film clips of the mob and the agents storming the embassy under the protection of Libyan police. The Libyan people saw these film clips on the evening of that day and after the meeting between At-Turayki and the ambassador. On the next day, Libyan television showed various scenes of the embassy building, the demonstrations around it, the storming of the embassy with its doors broken down with big axes, and the burning of the Jordanian flag. The demonstration was shown from various sides and angles. This was repeated on the third and fourth days. I think that the Libyan television viewers will see a new chapter in this tragedy again today.

Therefore, we reached the conviction that the official Libyan stand did not exceed the usual courtesy. It was short of responsible behavior. What does this contradiction mean? The Libyan foreign secretary's verbal remarks in the hotel were not made on his personal initiative or request. They were made after the ambassador insisted on contacting the Libyan authorities and on meeting with Foreign Secretary at-Turayki to inform him of the stand which Jordan adopted 2 days ago which I affirm today.

We waited until the evening of that day. We waited the next day and the day after. The official Libyan television was affirming the real Libyan position on this incident.

The second part of the facts that I would like to present to your esteemed House concern certain details which we obtained from various sources and which were corroborated by the ambassador during our meeting with him in the Foreign Ministry and in the prime minister's office today.

The Libyan television statement, which was broadcast on Thursday, 15 February, was issued in the name of the Palestinian revolutionary committees and the main popular Palestinian committees that represent various factions in the land of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. This was the Libyan television statement. It was a statement addressed to these groups, calling on them to gather in the Green Square on 18 February to organize a demonstration that would march toward the Jordanian Embassy.

What happened was that five big buses, whose occupants were estimated at 250 persons, went to the Green Square, formed a group, and headed toward the Jordanian Embassy. Before the group arrived, there were 100 Libyan policemen around the embassy and the streets leading to it. These policemen were deployed in order to organize the storming of the embassy by 200-250 persons. Those policemen were supposed to have arrived to protect the embassy against such a demonstration. After the demonstrators arrived, the police opened the way for them to storm the embassy. Thus, the task assigned to the 100 policemen was to protect 250 criminals in their attempts to storm the embassy.

They broke down the outside doors with axes. They were carrying torches. They entered the embassy, spread into the building, and broke into the embassy rooms. Inside, they each had different roles. Some of them began burning the furniture. Others looted embassy files and documents, forms for renewing passports, and various consular papers that belong to citizens there. Some of them burned these papers. Others carried small iron safes and took them outside the embassy. Others broke doors inside the embassy and threw rags that were soaked in oil everywhere in the embassy. They then went to the roof and burned the flag of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. They raised in its place two flags: one for Libya and one for Palestine.

When fire spread inside and columns of smoke began to rise, they abandoned the embassy. Some of them used step ladders, ropes, pipes, and back doors. They left the embassy while the ambassador, the local employees, and the second and third ranking diplomats in the embassy were still inside.

Libyan television was there taking shots of what was taking place. The ambassador and those who were with him cut off the power to avoid any complications. They then tried to storm a room in which the ambassador and the employees were. They forced the door open and threatenend to kill them. The ambassador the other employees managed to close the door on themselves, leaving the mob to spread out through the embassy and move to the second floor to repeat the same action, and then to move to the third floor where they tried to open a big metal safe, which they failed to open. They then went up to the roof. They left the embassy after completing their mission, and after the fires began to destroy the embassy from all sides.

The ambassador and those who remained inside were forced to go up to the roof and call for help from the civilians in the neighborhood, whom we thank for their help and humanitarianism to the ambassador and those with him, thus enabling them to leave the embassy for their homes. This was the only way out because the doors were closed because of the fires and the security forces surrounding the embassy. They were unable to leave in the normal way.

After the ambassador and those with him were able to leave the embassy, groups of Libyan policemen and those with them continued to surround the embassy. Libyan civil defense fire brigade vehicles intervened to prevent the fires from spreading to neighboring houses, but they did not allow the ambassador and the embassy employees to use the ladders of the civil defense for escape.

A local employee of the embassy came while the embassy was being surrounded. He pushed his way through the mob. He told them: The Jordanian ambassador and the employees are your brothers. They are inside the embassy. How can you allow it to burn? One those present arrested him and tried to put him into a civilian police car. Another person intervened identifying himself as an officer. It also transpired that the person who tried to make the arrest was also a Libyan officer. When the officers got into an agrugment, the local employee of the embassy escaped.

The groups surrounding the embassy were a mixture of policemen in civilian clothes, security officers and men in civilian clothes, guards of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi in military uniform, and female members of Col al-Qadhdhafi's guards in military uniform, who were armed. All these elements made up the procession, which was described as a Palestinian procession. Those who stormed the embassy were from these elements: female guards, security men in civilian clothes, and demonstrators whom no one from the embassy could identity other than that they were Libyans. These demonstrators carried personal arms. I leave it to the honorable members of the House to judge if ordinary people are allowed to carry arms in Libya.

Afterward, a police officer asked the ambassador to ride with him in a car. He was taken to a police station. There he was asked to receive a representative of the procession who wanted to convey a note of protest to the embassy. But the ambassador refused to receive that representative. He said that whoever wants to submit a note of protest to the embassy does not burn the embassy. He said it was impossible to receive anyone representing any procession after the embassy and the Jordanian flag had been burned under the surveillance of the Libyan authorities. The ambassador heard threats and obscene words which we cannot mention in this place.

Later, the ambassador went to the Kuwaiti Embassy, where the Kuwaiti ambassador placed himself and his embassy at the disposal of the Jordanian ambassador and his employees. Arab and foreign ambassadors began calling on the Jordanian ambassador. While at the Kuwaiti Embassy, the Jordanian ambassador was surprised to receive a message saying that the representatives of the Palestinian groups in Libya had nothing to do with the tragic incident involving the Jordanian Embassy. This message was conveyed by the ambassador of a neighboring Arab embassy, where most of the representatives of the Palestinian resistance groups had gathered and had expressed their astonishment that they had been falsely implicated in this dirty mission, which does not serve Palestine, the Palestinian revolution, or the interests of the Palestinian people and does not lead to Arab solidarity or to solving this problem. More than one Arab ambassador bears witness to this message.

We do not know. Some of the employees of the embassy and some of the citizens there passed on information saying that they saw some persons who are connected with the Palestinian resistance group which sympathizes with of Col al-Qadhdhafi's policy and who obtain financial aid from him. They saw four of five members of this group within the crowd outside the embassy, but they did not see them storming the embassy. The representatives of the resistance groups said that even that group, which is sympathetic to Al-Qadhdhafi's policy, was probably forced to send four or five of its members to the procession so the leader of that group could pay his debt to Col al-Qadhdhafi and so that it would be said that they had participated in the procession.

Many contacts were held with the Jordanian ambassador after he returned to his house. These contacts were from the Arab and foreign ambassadors and Jordanian citizens. The ambassador also received many messages stressing what I have already pointed out. These messages confirm that the Libyan authorities had collected many persons from workshops and streets, and added to them some mercenaries from Chad and other places. There were also members of Libyan intelligence and their agents

until the number reached 200 persons. These persons were transported to the embassy in five busses.

There are facts: Most of the Arab and foreign ambassadors passed in front of the embassy on the next day — the embassy having become an exhibition after it was burned so the passersby, the citizens, and the diplomats could see it. There are also painful facts which indicate that the Jordanian Embassy was not the first or the last embassy to be burned. The painful thing is that when the Libyan Government and authorities decided to burn the French Embassy, they sent a message saying that the French diplomats should leave the embassy because a demonstration would pass in front of it, and the situation might become serious. They gave them 6-10 hours to evacuate the embassy. Later, they left for the embassy so the movie would completed. However, the Jordanian Embassy, an Arab embassy, was treated in a different fashion, because [as At-Turayki said] Libyan-Jordanian relations are good and must be preserved and this incident must not affect these relations.

According to diplomatic norms, there are methods to express protest and denunciation, methods to apologize, and other methods regarding suggestions to contain any problem. We did not find in the Libyan authorities' behavior any official stand to help us take a stand that we feel is less than the maximum. But they did not give us one good reason, one stand, or one action that can be respected. In the cabinet's statement of policy before your esteemed council, we said that we sincerely and faithfully call for strengthening Arab solidarity. We also said that our method in this regard will be to work on the level of responsibility to settle the differences in the Arab nation. We cannot violate this principle. We proceeded from this principle because it represents a firm Jordanian policy which we cannot abandon. Therefore, when I said that it is time to reassess Jordanian-Libyan relations, taking into consideration the past, present, and future, I mean what I say.

It seems that we are required unilaterally to be concerned about strengthening Arab solidarity, and we will be. Since the Baghdad summit — let alone what came before the Baghdad summit in 1978 — and despite the negative Libyan stand, the Libyan acts of sabotage, and Libya's failure to fulfill any commitment or adhere to any charter, Jordan continued to receive many Libyans in its various civilian and military institutions; in the social security, the civil aviation, the television, the military academy, the staff college, and the police academy. Jordan continued to welcome Libyan brothers to Jordan to acquire training, attend courses, and return to Libya with many expereinces whose evaluation we will leave for the Libyan authorities.

This has continued despite the fact that Libya has turned its back on its commitment under the Baghdad summit resolutions. That commitment formed the basis of our commitments and became a part of the Jordanian Armed Forces' arms deals. Libya has not fulfilled its commitments up to this very day. We will not relieve it of this commitment, because it is a commitment that was approved by the summit, and Libya bears full responsibility for this violation. Jordan is still committed to the states from which it bought weapons. It repays its debts and assumes the accumulating interest. This situation has continued despite the Libyan stand.

We called for Arab solidarity and we proved this, yet the Libyan media continued to level false accusations and instigated programs of sabotage against the Arab mind, solidarity, and security. On the other hand, our media have continued to be honest and objective under all circumstances, calling for unity and not for separation; forgiving mistreatment; and showing good intentions in the name of Arab solidarity. The Libyan newspapers have continue to attack the Jordanian leadership and policy by various methods. The least that can be said about them is that they are dirty methods. Despite this, the official and unofficial Jordanian newspapers have continued their commitment to a positive and constructive line that focuses on every bright spot in Arab relations and on every bright spot that enlightens our road, lessens the negative points in Arab relations, and paves the way for any initiative to patch up our differences. Our press has never contributed to estrangement. Moreover, our press has never fostered a climate like the one created by the Libyan media and press. Our press has played a positive role.

We have called for Arab solidarity and committed ourselves to it up to this day. But the irresponsible Libyan behavior against us has continued, day and night, in an attempt to impose trusteeship on us even when we talk among ourselves or talk to our Arab brothers. Jordan is forbidden to contact Egypt, the Jordanian leadership is forbidden to hold contacts with the Egyptian leadership. His Majesty King Husayn is forbidden to hold talks with President Husni Mubarak. However, it is all right for Col al-Qadhdhafi to send his cousin and chief of his intelligence, Sayyid Qadhdhafi ad-Damm, to meet with President Husni Mubarak in Morocco. Jordan is forbidden to take any good initiative to unite Arab ranks, but it is all right for Libya and the Libyan leadership to choose the right time to hold talks with any Arab state or leader and to send messengers to him, to conclude deals with him, to seek his friendship, and to deal with him. However, Jordan is forbidden to do that. This is a trusteeship we did not accept in the past, we will not accept now, and we will not accept in the future.

I do not know what Jordan has done to the Palestinian leadership to arouse the rancor of the Libyan leadership. Jordan has only called for safeguarding the Palestinian legitimacy. Jordan has only said that the PLO is the Palestinian people's sole and legitimate representative. This is an Arab summit resolution to which we are committed. We have not driven a wedge between the Palestinians. We have never paid a Palestinian to assassinate another Palestinian, as Libya has done. We have never contributed to any negative effort to split the Palestinian ranks, because it is an Arab rank. We have not fought in Beirut and murdered the Arab Muslim and Christian citizens, or the Palestinians and non-Palestinians. We have always said that all must rise to the level of responsibility and spare no effort to settle this problem.

Despite all this, Jordan is forbidden to continue its contacts with the legitimate Palestinian leadership. But it is all right for Libya to continue its attempts to fragment the nation and rank and pay Arab funds — the funds of the Libyan people that must be devoted to supporting the Arab nation and the intrinsic Arab power everywhere — to serving Zionism.

I said that we will not make an emotional decision. But I cannot but cross the T's and dot the I's. What has Libya given the Arab nation since the 1 September Revolution? What has it given Arab solidarity? What has it given to Jordan within the scope of bilateral relations? Nothing but shame, dirty words, lowly information, and murderers whom it sent reverywhere. On the other hand, Jordan has given every possible help. It trained their Army here and there. We had a military mission in Libya. They have said, they are saying, and they will say in the future that it was the best military mission that trained the Libyan Army.

We trained their Army there. We sent them our best men without any charge. We trained their Army here. We trained security officers and officials in the various fields of specialization at the expense of the Jordanian Government and as guests of the Jordanian Government under all circumstances and in the most difficult circumstances. This is the Jordanian stand and that is the Libyan stand. When we review Libyan-Jordanian relations, we have to mention all these points.

A former Libyan ambassador to Jordan differed with his government and left Jordan. After a while, he made a statement that he was charged with an act of sabotage — an assassination attempt and shooting missiles at the royal plane. Like others, we were surprised by what the man said. He left Jordan in a normal way, as he used to on his leaves. He left and returned whnever he wished. A few weeks later, we received a special message saying that the Libyan leadership had no knowledge whatsoever about this subject. The only information was that this ambassador had agreed to plot with a neighboring Arab state without the knowledge of the Libyan leadership, and when the Libyan leadership discovered that, it recalled him. Thus, he fled. What has that got to do with us? And in order not to exploit every contraduction within the Arab ranks, as the enemies of the Arab nation do, we remained silent. We silently endured our wounds. We said: Perhaps matters will change. Still, we were not spared.

The Jordanian Embassy in Libya was burned. Why was the Jordanian Embassy burned? In whose interest? I do not know. If the masses, if the flock was shepherded to the Jordanian Embassy without the knowledge of the Libyan authorities, that is one thing, but if it was with their knowledge, then it is something else. The fact is that it was a premeditated measure with the knowledge, planning, and participation of the Libyan authorities. Male and female guards of Al-Qadhdhafi who rule the Libyan Arab people participated in the arson operation. In uniform or in civilian clothes and with their personal weapons, they besieged and entered the embassy and burned all its contents. They spoke threateningly to the ambassador and the employees. Libyan security and intelligence men participated in the arson. Policemen participated in the arson. The revolutionary committees of the Libyan Jamahiriyah participated in the arson. What is left after all this? Moreover, Libyan television covered the incident before, during, and after it happened. What more do we want so we can say a word in the interest of the Jordanian people and Jordan's security, safety, and honor? What more do we want?

We have brother compatriots in the Libyan Jamahiriyah who are being tortured daily. We hoped we could serve them. That was why the Royal Jordanian Airlines—ALIA ran two flights to Libya every week so as to maintain a lifeline with our kinfolk and brothers there. We also permitted the Libyan airline to run two flights weekly. We knew that every individual in the Libyan airline is on a mission to collect information on this country and to contact various sides to carry out acts of sabotage in this country. We told our organs: Continue to watch them, but let the Libyan airline planes continue to come and let ALIA continue to go. This is our destiny. There are 10 or 12 employees in the Libyan airline and 10 or 12 in the Libyan Embassy. There are about 20 to 30 diplomats and administrators. We only have three in Libya. Where is the good will?

From this rostrum I promise you that my government will shoulder the responsibility of making the appropriate decision concerning this relationship which, I said, must be radically reviewed. Today, the cabinet will make the decision and speak its mind after becoming acquainted with the full picuture based on detailed reports. As far as the incident is concerned, the reaction of the Jordanian people represented by their various factions and popular and trade unionist sectors was clear and known to you all. Furthermore, very bitter and emotional feelings were communicated to us at the Prime Ministry, the Interior Ministry, to the speaker and members of the House of Representatives, and many other quarters. They wanted a violent reaction that would vindicate their honor. But we were able to responsibly calm these feelings by pleading to our brothers' Arab nobility, generosity, and sense of national pride. We told them: No, you are not the ones who should do that, and we are not the ones to accept that. We will protect the Libyan Embassy in Amman. This is our duty. And these are our brothers. We cannot do more than that.

Finally, I pray to God to guide us on the correct path. Peace be upon you.

AD-DUSTUR Editorial

JN230945 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0515 GMT 23 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *AD-DUSTUR* believes that the decision to sever relations with Libya was inevitable. This decision is a practical response to popular resentment and disgust at the reprehensible action and reflects the trend in the past few days in various Jordanian circles, groups, and organizations. The strong and comprehensive popular condemnation of the storming of the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli was accompanied by the demand to sever relations with the Libyan authorities, which tried to harm the dignity and pride of the Jordanian people.

AD-DUSTUR continues: This decision, which Colonel al-Qadhdhafi forced us to make, was Jordan's only option in light of the many previous disgraceful Libyan actions and practices against our country and leadership. The storming of the Jordanian Embassy last Saturday was the lastest in the chain of these practices. This situation forced us to violate one of our lofty political customs and sever relations with a fraternal Arab country.

The rancorous Libyan regime, which violated all diplomatic laws and norms, disdained all values and ideals that govern the principles of Arab and Islamic brotherhood, has always worked to undermine Jordanian-Libyan relations into which, as the prime minister explained before the House of the Representative yesterday, Jordan put more than it received. The hearts of the Jordanian people were full of resentment, regret, and sorrow at the odd course which the Libyan authorities followed toward many Arab and Isalmic issues. This people always hoped that Col al-Qadhdhafi would come to his senses and reconsider his stands and policies. Instead, he went too far and, without any logical justification, pushed a clique of mercenaries to sow corruption and destruction right into the Jordanian mission.

We hope the circumstances which forced Jordan to sever its diplomatic relations with Col al-Qadhdhafi's regime will be removed, and we are confident that the fraternal Libyan people which produced 'Umar al-Mukhtar, the Al-Sannusi movement, and other militant beacons will soon correct the odd and forcibly imposed situation so that they can continue the march of sincere Arab fraternity with Jordan and other Arab and Islamic countries to which Al-Qadhdhafi's regime has caused a great deal of harm.

AD-DUSTUR Warns on Embassy Shift to Jerusalem

JN240856 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0525 GMT 24 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "A Mean Attempt To Entrench Confiscation of Jerusalem," *AD-DUSTUR* says: The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has begun to discuss Zionist Senator Daniel Monynihan's draft resolution which calls for legitimizing Israel's confiscation of Jerusalem by moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The new Zionist blackmail attempt comes when U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East has reached its lowest level of weakness and cnfusion.

The campaign's organizers imagined that the U.S. Administration was in such a position that it would not be able to resist the plan under these conditions. What arouses our concern over the possibility that the U.S. Administration will submit to Zionist pressure in Congress on the issue of Jerusalem is the record of U.S. reversals in the Middle East in favor of Israel. This record is due to Zionist pressure; it begins with considering Zionist settlements in the occupied territory an action that does not contradict international legitimacy and ends with the signing of the strategic cooperation agreement, which makes the United States a servant to Israeli policy in the region.

AD-DUSTUR continues: The discussions that are taking place in Congress on the above-mentioned draft resolution show that the Zionist pressures may eventually succeed in getting the U.S. Administration involved and in making it adopt a decision to move its embassy to Jerusalem. Such a decision would be a big mistake. The United States must be wary of committing it, and must take the consequences into consideration. Such a careless decision will have dangerous political dimensions, the foremost of which is frank U.S. recognition of all illegal Israeli practices in occupied Arab Jerusalem. Thus, this will be considered a blatant violation of all international laws and a dishonorable disavowal of the U.S. stand on the issue of the holy city.

Amid the feverish bargaining that prevails in the United States because of the election campaign, we must remind the U.S. Administration of Jerusalem's historic and religious position in the Arab and Islamic world. We would also like to remind this administration of the resolutions and warnings the Islamic countries adopted in their summit conferences after Israel announced its decision to confiscate Jerusalem in July 1980, and of how U.S. interests in the Arab and Islamic world will be damaged if the U.S. Administration commits such a crime.

AD-DUSTUR concludes: As we recall Secretary of State Shultz' firm stand toward the Zionist plan during yesterday's discussions in the U.S. congressional committees and his announcement that the U.S. Administration will reject the plan, the Arab and Islamic capitals must issue a clear warning to Washington that submitting to the pressure of the Zionist Congress and moving the U.S. Embassy to occupied Jerusalem will lead the Arab and Islamic countries to sever diplomatic relations with the United States in accordance with the frank resolutions the Islamic countries have adopted in this regard. The United States cannot bless Israeli practices in Arab Jerusalem while maintaining normal relations with the people who refuse to bargain over the Arabism of Jerusalem.

AR-RA'Y: 'Arafat Scheduled To Arrive 'Next Week'

JN241007 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 24 Feb 84 pp 1, 16

[Excerpt] Amman — *AR-RA'Y* — Yasir 'Arafat, PLO Executive Committee chairman, is scheduled to arrive in Amman next week in order to meet with His Majesty King Husayn and senior Jordanian officials and to discuss the future of joint relations.

Khalil al-Wazir, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, and Hani al-Hasan, 'Arafat's political adviser, arrived in Amman late last night.

Prince Hasan Receives European Parliament Official

JN231503 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1430 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Amman, 23 Feb (PETRA) — His Highness Crown Prince Hasan received at the Royal Hashemite Court today Rieter Dankert, president of the European Parliament, who is currently visiting Jordan. His highness reviewed the Middle East situation in general, the situation in the occupied Arab territories in particular, and Arab- European relations.

The court minister and the Jordanian ambassador to Belgium attended.

Al-Masri Confers With Dankert

JN231348 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Amman — Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri has emphasized that the only means to reach a just and durable solution to the Palestine question is full Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied since 1967 and ensuring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. Tis came during his meeting today with Rieter Dankert, president of the European Parliament. Al-Masri noted the positive and constructive role that the European Parliament is playing to achieve just peace in the Middle East.

The minister and Dankert reviewed the latest developments in the Palestine question and means to promote and develop cooperation between the European Parliament and the Jordanian Parliament.

Foreign Minister Interviewed by AL-HAWADITH

PM231156 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 24 Feb 84 pp 20, 21

[Interview with Foreign Minister Taha al-Masri by *AL-HAWADITH* correspondent in Amman — date not specified]

[Excerpts] Question: One of the significant aspects of the tripartite meeting in Washington was that it began with a trip [by King Husayn] for treatment and ended with a U.S.-Egyptian-Jordanian summit. Was this a coincidence or can we say that everything was carefully prearranged?

Answer: The meeting was a coincidence, because the purpose of his majesty's visit to Washington, or the United States, was for treatment. The king's illness was known before and in fact he went to Cleveland where he stayed several days. In the meantime preparations for President Mubarak's visit to the United States were under way. The White House suggested a U.S.-Egyptian-Jordanian meeting. We welcomed the idea because we thought that it might be a good opportunity to discuss the deteriorating situation in the Middle East. Therefore, the visit was for treatment and the meeting was a coincidence.

Question: One of the most important objectives of this meeting was to seek a common denominator that would make it possible to start negotiations for a peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem. Was it possible to reach such a common denominator?

Answer: Genuine efforts were made before and during the meeting by the two leaders, King Husayn and President Mubarak, to clarify the situation in the area, particularly in Lebanon. As is known, our stand, to put it briefly, is to ask the United States not to get involved in the Lebanese problem and leave the Palestinian problem pending. President Mubarak supported us in this stand. The two leaders' talk was therefore coordinated and pursued the same line.

Question: It was noticed that all the efforts to obtain a promise from the United States to enter into dialogue, even if unofficial, with the PLO have failed. Does Jordan nevertheless intend to initiate negotiations for a peaceful solution or not?

Answer: We found that the Americans adopted the same attitude this time as well. They still absolutely reject any negotiations with the PLO so long as it does not recognize Israel's right to exist. Our first step, or rather our first objective, is to come to an understanding with the PLO on the form and type of future relations between us without entering into other details. We must therefore draw up a plan for relations between ourselves. At the preliminary stage, we will not talk about negotiations with the United States or anybody else. After this stage is over we will begin the next stage on which we will agree with the PLO. Our steps will be coordinated and involve understanding with the PLO. We have no intention of entering negotiations separately from the PLO or without an agreement with it.

Question: How do you explain President Mubarak's statement that nobody can speak on behalf of the Palestinians, bearing in mind that this also was the Egyptian view which was declared following the suspension of the autonomy talks with Israel?

Answer: We know well what happened inside the meeting [as published] and we know that President Mubarak is aware of our objectives. Contrary to what some newspapers said, this statement was not aimed at Jordan. We do not want or wish to be a substitute for the PLO. This is definite and clear and we are committed to this principle. I believe that the PLO is aware of this. Therefore, I say that before talking about entering into negotiations we should first determine the future relations between us.

Question: It is known that any peace negotiations proceed from the premise that the other party is ready to evacuate the land it has occupied. But Israel persistently rejects such an evacuation and refuses to consider the West Bank and Gaza as separate from what it calls the land of Israel. On what basis therefore can negotiations with it begin?

Answer: We have a specific objective, which is the withdrawal of Israel and the restoration of Arab sovereignty over the West Bank and Gaza. We will not abandon this objective. When we organize our relations with the PLO, we will contact the Arab brothers and let them know of our agreement and ask them for support. We will then lay down a plan for cooperation with the PLO and the Arab countries together. After that we will go to the United States and tell it: This is what we have agreed and this is what we want, which under no circumstances will be short of total Israeli withdrawal. As to what the reaction of the other party will be, we must leave this to the future. What is important is that this is our stand and we will go into any negotiations or dialogue on this basis.

Question: Total withdrawal without any alterations of the old borders?

Answer: Total withdrawal. It is no secret that our formula for any future talks is based on total withdrawal in return for total peace. This is the formula that we have adopted for our talks. As for the sub-formulas, the details of these could come later. In other words, if the principle of "total withdrawal in return for total peace" is accepted, then we can complete the course.

Question: If the United States insists on refusing to enter into talks with the PLO, will the PLO agree to be represented by a Jordanian delegation including Palestinians from the West Benk and Gaza?

Answer: The PLO must understand the facts of the international situation and the desires of the inhabitants of the West Bank and the Palestinians in general. There are Palestinians living on Palestinian territory — the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza — who recognize the PLO as the sole legitimate representative. I believe the PLO can accept a certain formula in this direction. I do not think this will be as difficult as some people imagine.

Question: Is this going to be discussed in future talks with the PLO?

Answer: The fundamental thing is that we are not going to discuss these matters at the first stage. I mean we will not bring up the question of negotiations or on what basis we will enter these negotiations. The first step will be to come to an understanding with the PLO on the form of future Jordanian-Palestinian relations. We will come to these subjects later. If we do not come to an agreement, there is no use discussing the question of negotiations in the first place. In fact we have divided the subject into stages.

Question: If President Reagan says that the building of Jewish settlements will serve no purpose, is that enough to stop Israel building settlements, bearing in mind that in the past he has said that it hinders peace efforts?

Answer: Of course it is not enough.

Question: Why then the interest in Reagan's statements in particular and U.S. statements in general?

Answer: We should take an interest in U.S. statements. We must try to change the U.S. attitude. As you know, the question of stopping the building of settlements in the West Bank was a basic condition by Jordan and King Husayn for accepting the Reagan plan. We were actually promised that the building of settlements would be frozen. We must call them colonies. I suggest that the Arab press call them colonies [musta'marat] rather than settlements [mustawtanat] because what Israel is doing is actual colonization. This does not imply building; rather it is an improper translation of the term "colonization" [printed in English]. Unless the United States can freeze the building of colonies, we cannot take another step toward Reagan's initiative. The talk about colonies is still going on. President Reagan recently assured King Husayn and President Mubarak in Washington that his initiative is still alive and well and that further efforts will be made to reactivate it. For this reason the request was made that efforts should not concentrate on Lebanon alone while the basic problem is being disregarded. Therefore, we cannot ignore the U.S. role and we must continuously seek to change it. It will be a happy day for Israel when the Arabs decide to discontinue dialogue with the United States. In fact this is what Israel wants.

Question: Are there any strings attached to the financial and military aid which Jordan receives from the United States whether with regard to the Palestinian problem or the Arab problems in general?

Answer: There are no strings. There was a certain misunderstanding with regard to what was said about a rapid deployment force, on which the Western press alleged that aid will be given to Jordan in order to form such a force. We have military relations with the United States and we have been receiving U.S. arms continuously for more than 30 years. A Jordanian-U.S. military committee meets publicly twice a year. This is a known fact. Every time we submit our requirements for arms. We do not always obtain what we want because of certain problems, some financial and others due to objections to supplying Jordan with arms from certain U.S. quarters, particularly the Congress. But this time the U.S. Administration agreed to supply us with part of the arms we wanted. I do not know why the U.S. Administration behaved in this manner this time, for at the beginning it dealt with the matter secretly. But later it announced it in the Congress. What we do know is that arms will come to Jordan and immediately upon their arrival they will become Jordanian Arab arms, to which no conditions or other commitments are attached. With regard to what was said about the Gulf, we do not deny that we have helped the Gulf countries in the past. If in the future we are asked to help them, we will rush to help any Arab state asking for help in defending its territory.

Question: To what extent did the United States respond to the efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war?

Answer: The U.S. response was not to the extent we would have liked. But the clarity of Iraq's position and its readiness to respond to any peaceful efforts from any quarter proved to the United States Iraq's good will and sincere desire to end the war. We believe this will bring the United States closer to Iraq than Iran. We hope future developments will contribute further toward making the relations between the two countries closer.

Question: In light of the joint Jordanian-Egyptian efforts in Washington, how would you evaluate relations between Amman and Cairo at present?

Answer: Relations are excellent. They were excellent even before the meeting between the king and the president. There is strong political coordination between the two countries and, God willing, it will continue. I mean that the tripartite or bilateral meetings added nothing to Jordanian-Egyptian relations; rather they were a reflection of the good relations between the two countries.

Question: What do you think the European role should be in influencing the efforts being made to solve the Palestinian problem?

Answer: Europe must be clearer in its attitude toward the Middle East, and its stand toward the United States with regard to the problems of the area should be clearer and stronger. We still feel that European pressure on the United States is almost nonexistent; it is mere diplomatic and propaganda talk more than real pressure, bearing in mind that Europe is the first in the world to be affected by increasing disturbances in the Middle East. Every time we have the opportunity to meet with a European official, we raise this matter with him, particularly with regard to pressure on the United States. When his majesty met with Mrs Thatcher and Geoffrey Howe, he spoke about this subject — that is, the need for Britain and Europe to adopt a clear stand toward Middle East problems and toward the United States. We will exert efforts, just as we have exerted efforts in the past, to make the EEC countries adopt such a stand at their coming meeting at the end of March in Paris. The signs so far are encouraging, although we have no idea what the situation will lead to.

Prince Bandar Announces Cease-Fire Agreement
NC240625 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Prince Bandar ibn Sultan held a news conference in Damascus last night. He announced that a cease-fire agreement will come into effect in Lebanon at 1100 today. REUTER and the ASSOCIATED PRESS quoted Prince Bandar as saying: It pleases me to announce that we have reached a cease-fire agreement. To us, the saving of lives is important. We are now in touch with all parties.

The announcement was made following Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri's return to Damascus from Beirut and after a long meeting in Damascus. In addition to Bandar and Al-Hariri, the meeting was attended by John 'Ubayd; 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Faruq ash-Shar', Syrian minister of state for foreign affairs.

Prince Bandar was asked: Does the agreement cover political issues such as the demand by the opposition and Syria for the abroation of the 17 May agreement? He answered: No. It is a cease-fire agreement only. Syria was very cooperative. I can now return happy to my country.

Agreement 'Holding' in Beirut
NC241208 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The cease-fire agreement which Saudi mediator Prince Bandar announced in Damascus is still holding since early this morning despite intermittent bursts of gunfire and explosions on the traditional contact lines in the commercial center in Beirut.

ISF To Take Over Checkpoint
NC231737 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] A security source said contacts are now under way to have the Internal Security Forces [ISF] take over the armed checkpoint near the As-Samakah restaurant in Al-Awza'i within the framework of security arrangements to be agreed with the Amal Movement.

The Internal Security Forces reminded all citizens this evening that they have instructed their forces to prevent the appearance of gunmen and to take all the necessary measures to close all newly established party offices. They said they will operate intensive patrols to stem such contraventions and they hope all those concerned will fully comply with their instructions in view of the present circumstances.

Birri: Amal Not Informed
NC241224 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Amal Movement leader lawyer Nabih Birr held a news conference at his house at noon today. It was attended by a large group of local and foreign newsmen. Birri discussed the Israeli enemy's actions in Ma'rakah and the continued detention of citizens, particularly Amal Movement youth, in the south. He emphasized the need to resist the occupation by all methods. He demanded the dispatch of UN forces everywhere in Lebanon.

Concerning the cease-fire which was announced this morning, Birri said that the Amal Movement has not been told anything in this regard and that no contacts have been held.

Regarding the port and airport, Birri said that he met yesterday with [Port Director] Henry Far'un and that contacts are continuing to reopen the port and airport.

Birri rejected any proposals pertaining to the question of cantons and the partitioning of Lebanon. He emphasized that such proposals would be tantamount to a declaration of war.

Al-Jumayyil, Salim, Al-Hariri Discuss Proposals
NC231223 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Intensive political contacts were resumed at local, regional, and international levels today.

The Saudi mediator held discussions with President Amin al-Jumayyil and Foreign Minister Dr Elie Salim. He conveyed to them the results of the Saudi-Syrian consultations in Damascus regarding the latest proposals for solving the Lebanese crisis.

These proposals resulted from the discussions which Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz held with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, as well as Prince Bandar ibn Sultan and Al-Hariri's discussions with 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, Syrian deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The most significant of these provide for cancellation of the 17 May agreement, formation of a government of a national unity, and implementation of a cease-fire.

Saudi mediator Al-Hariri is expected to return to Damascus today to present the results of his discussions with the Lebanese officials.

Al-Hariri Leaves for Damascus
NC231909 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Saudi mediator Rafiq al-Hariri left Beirut for Damascus this evening to brief the Saudi working team on the results of the talks he held with Lebanese officials this evening. Al-Hariri is expected to return to Beirut tomorrow.

Al-Jumayyil Meets Lebanese Front Leaders 23 Feb
NC231305 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] President Amin al-Jumayyil received Lebanese Front

leaders [former] President Camille Sham'un and Pierre al-Jumayyil at 1030 today. They discussed with political developments, particularly the position on the 17 May agreement. Saudi Mediator Rafiq al-Hariri attended part of the meeting.

President Sham'un made the following statement about the meeting:

[Begin recording] [Sham'un] We discussed the entire question since its beginning. We are facing two alternatives: ratification or cancellation of the agreement and Syria's position in the event of abrogation and what will be offered to Lebanon in return for abrogation of the agreement.

[Unidentified reporter] Are your views identical to the president's on the decision to be taken?

[Sham'un] No, no. There is no disagreement. We are cooperating to solve the problem.

[Reporter] You have conveyed your position on the issue to his excellency the president...?

[Sham'un, interrupting] The discussion was frank in every sense of the word. [Words indistinct]

[Reporter] Didn't you adopt a specific joint stand?

[Sham'un] Permit me to tell you that it will always be a joint stand, God willing.

[Reporter] Have you met with Saudi mediator Al-Hariri?

[Sham'un] We met with him in the presence of his excellency the president. [end recording]

PSP Radio Comments on Al-Jumayyil-Front Meeting

NC231558 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1500 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The shah of B'abda held a meeting at his palace today with his father, who heads the Phalangist gangs, and with Camille Sham'un, leader of the so-called Lebanese Front. Press sources say the Lebanese Front is pressuring the B'abda ruler not to abrogate the 17 May agreement. A well-informed political source confirmed to our correspondent that Amin al-Jumayyil is benefiting from such fabricated pressures. The source adds that Al-Jumayyil is contributing to these pressures as part of the maneuvers confronting the political, popular, and national campaign and overall unanimity to put an end to the fascist hegemony and the agent regime.

It was learned that there is a national and comprehensive Islamic rejection of these maneuvers. This was embodied in particular in the plenary meeting held at the Al-Ifta' House today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Hasan Khalid, mufti of the Republic, and in the series of meetings held by the national leaderships in Beirut.

VOL: Al-Jumayyil, France's Cheysson Review Situation

NC231452 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] A contact took place today between French Minister of State for External Eelations Claude Cheysson and President al-Jumayyil. They discussed the current situation, particularly the position announced by Cheysson emphasizing President al-Jumayyil's legitimacy and the fact that France does not recognize any other president in Lebanon.

French Ambassador Fernard Wibaux conveyed to President al-Jumayyil the results of French actions, particularly concerning the UN Security Council.

Fadi Afram Calls for Partitioning of State

NC232200 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2145 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Fadi Afram has called on the Lebanese Government to consolidate its relations with Israel and thus neutralize Syrian pressure because Israel has sufficient means to put pressure on the Syrians. This could come about through setting red lines and warning the Syrians against crossing them, or through air raids on certain areas.

Afram added that if Lebanon stood fast against Syrian pressure, Israel would support it. Hence, the Lebanese Forces at the beginning of this month opened an information office in Tel Aviv, proceeding from their policy of establishing contacts with Israel.

Speaking to foreign correspondents, Afram affirmed that there is no longer any room for rebuilding Lebanon according to its previous structure. He saud it should be partitioned into sectarian cantons.

RFL Enumerates Demands for Solution to Crisis

NC241220 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Highly placed political sources have said the current issue goes beyond the fate of the 17 May accord. The Saudi envoy, who left for Damascus yesterday, carried with him a basic plan that reflects the Lebanese stance in the form of demands in reply to the projected ideas.

The Lebanese demands include the following, inter alia:

1. The parties concerned must guarantee Syrian and Israeli withdrawals.

2. The opposition must be curbed, because this opposition is a fabricated one.

3. All Palestinian gunmen must withdraw.

4. The unity of the Lebanese Army must be safeguarded.

5. The previous security plan must be accepted.

6. Zahlah must be linked with the other Christian areas by a secure road.

7. The security of the Christians must be guaranteed.

8. Political negotiations between Syria and Lebanon must be held to expand control by the Lebanese state.

In another development, the Lebanese Forces reiterated their rejection of all the ideas being imported from the desert and which are being proposed as solutions for the crisis. The Lebanese Forces affirmed their stand of Lebanese resistance to every proposal that would negatively affect the free Christian areas in Lebanon. The Lebanese Forces call on the people to adhere to the course of resistance and to the course chosen by the Lebanese Forces.

Islamic Conferees Urge 17 May Pact Abrogation

NC232034 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpt] A statement issued tonight by the Islamic meeting chaired by Shaykh Hasan Khalid, the mufti of the Republic, called for the abrogation of the 17 May agreement, for a sincere and constructive dialogue to rescue Lebanon from its tragedy, and for coexistence in a just state in which all will be equal. The statement was announced by Dr Husayn al-Quwatli, director general of the mufti's office. The conferees also called for annulment of all the legislative decrees that were issued recently. They also saluted the southerners' comprehensive civilian resistance against the Israeli occupation.

Ties With Syria, Neutral Army

NC240647 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The Islamic and patriotic meeting held at the mufti's office issued a statement yesterday hailing the southern resistance and calling for its support. The statement emphasized the need to abrogate the 17 May agreement and strengthen the distinguished relations with Syria. It condemned the involvement of the Army in the internal conflict.

The statement held the regime responsible for what has happened and is happening in Beirut, the mountain area, and southern suburb. It called for a cease-fire and for expediting the reopening of the crossing points in both parts of Beirut and the resumption of port and airport business. The statement denounced factional hegemony practices and rejected their results, demanding that all legislative decrees be invalidated and that a national dialogue be expedited.

The discussions of the current conditions were completed at the meeting held at the mufti's office under the chairmanship of Mufti Hasan Khalid.

Shi'ite Leader Meets Ambassador Bartholomew

NC231822 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Shaykh Muhammad Mahdi Shams ad-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council, today received U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Reginald Bartholomew in the presence of His Eminence Ja'farite Mufti Shaykh 'Abd al-'Amir Qabalan and a number of the council's members. During the 2-hour meeting, Shaykh Shams ad-Din told the U.S. ambassador of the Higher Shi'ite Islamic Council's decision urging the deployment of UN emergency forces in the south, as well as along the coastal road linking the south with Beirut. The decision also urges the deployment of the proposed UN forces, which are to replace the Multinational Force, in all of Greater Beirut. This proposed force is also not to be an instrument for separating Lebanese factions and areas.

Responding to a question from Shaykh Shams ad-Din regarding U.S. means for achieving the unity, sovereignty, and independence of Lebanon, the U.S. ambassador emphasized that the U.S. role will primarily be one of supporting practical steps to be pursued by the Lebanese. Regarding the 17 May agreement, the U.S. ambassador believed that the Lebanese themselves should find an alternative because, as far as the U.S. Administration is concerned, the problem is how to get the foreign forces out of Lebanon.

On his part, Shaykh Shams ad-Din emphasized that there must be a return to the Lebanese-Israeli [1948] truce agreement. He added that the UN Security Council resolutions that have been approved by the United States and endorse the required objective of an Israeli withdrawal must be implemented. His eminence urged the United States to extend assistance in this respect and to help annul the 17 May agreement, which constitutes a basic obstacle to ending the Lebanese crisis.

VOAL Reports Clashes With Israelis in Tyre

NC241255 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Ferocious clashes have been raging in the district of Tyre since this morning involving Zionist occupation forces and the citizens. Reports affirm that Zionist warplanes and tanks strafed and shelled the township of Ma'rakah and that many houses have been demolished.

The occupation forces have cut all roads leading to the scenes of the clashes in order to conceal the results of their bestial operation. The inhabitants are, however, demonstrating heroism and steadfastness vis-a-vis the occupation forces, thus foiling storming attempts by 50 tanks.

The Zionist warplanes and tanks are bombarding Tyre suburbs and villages. Initial reports said that so far 3 people have been killed and well over 23 others wounded in the Ma'rakah clashes. The clashes were still going on as of this afternoon.

VOL: Gunmen 'Massacre' Ash-Shuwayfat Christians
NC231248 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpt] The Voice of Lebanon radio has learned that Christians in the Ash-Shuwayfat area have been massacred by Junblattist Druze gunmen. Some of the victims have been identified as Salim Farhat, Michel Lattuf, and Shahin Wahbah. It has been difficult to obtain further information because of the military cordon the Junblattists have imposed upon the area.

Khomeyniite gunmen and their associates in Hayy Madi in Ash-Shiyah have burned down the remaining Christian houses.

Antiregime Military Group in North Statement
NC240803 (Clandestine) Voice of Arab Lebanon in Arabic 0730 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The Nationalist Military Personnel Grouping [tajammu' al-'askariyyin al-wataniyyin] in the north circulated a statement yesterday considering itself as an extension of the Free Officers Movement in Beirut. The grouping asserted it will disobey all orders to fight alongside the so-called Lebanese Forces. It said that the only legitimate action is confronting the Zionist enemy and his forces, consolidating Lebanon's Arabism, and achieving justice and equality for all citizens.

Saudi Mediator Announces Cease-Fire Agreement
BK240208 Hong Kong AFP in English 0125 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Damascus, Feb 24 (AFP) — Lebanon will declare a cease-fire today (Friday) before noon, Saudi Arabia's principal mediator announced. After almost seven hours of talks with Syria's Foreign Minister 'Abd Al-Halim Khaddam, Saudi diplomat Bandar ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz told a press conference that details of the cease-fire agreement would be released in Beirut or Damascus, or perhaps simultaneously in the two capitals. Prince Bandar said he would leave Syria within the next few hours for home with the second Saudi negotiator, Rafic al-Hariri, to submit details of the Lebanese agreement to King Fahd. Bandar called the talks "constructive, fruitful and successful." The ceasefire "will put an end to the bloodshed in Lebanon and will put the country on the road to peace," Bandar told reporters. He said that Saudi Arabia and Syria held identical views on the Lebanese situation. Asked about the cease-fire's effect on Israel, Bandar said that "once the announcement is made...the United States will have to use all its weight to see that the agreement is respected by Israel." He added that Syrian troops would be withdrawn from Lebanon only if Israel withdrew its troops and did not retain any advantages.

Four Israeli Aircraft Intercepted Over Lebanon
JN231626 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] A military spokesman has stated the following:

At 1300 today, 23 February 1984, four Israeli enemy F-15 aircraft bombed the following civilian areas: Ru'aysat Sawfar, Bhamdun, and 'Alayh. Our air defense means located near the area intercepted them and forced them to return to the direction of the occupied territory. A number of civilians were killed or wounded in this bombardment.

Commentary Reacts to Reagan Remarks on Lebanon
JN231610 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Dear listeners, the U.S. President paused for a moment when he was asked if he admits the failure of his policy in Lebanon and answered that his forces will return to the Lebanese land, that the U.S. warships will resume shelling the Lebanese cities and villages, and that he is waiting for the appropriate time to issue orders to the U.S. Marines to return to Beirut. He made it a point to reassure Israel of his strength and decisions by aiding it in rejecting the international will and the world demand for withdrawing the U.S. 6th Fleet from off the Lebanese shore. The U.S. President, who rejects the feeling of guilt and refuses to recognize the Lebanese people's rights to live on the soil of their national homeland, stressed the need to blame Syria for the failure of his policy in Lebanon in particular and the Middle East in general.

At a time when an increasing number of Americans are warning of the dangers of U.S. foreign policy, President Reagan extended support to George Shultz, who is seen by the American people as a person responsible for the deaths of Americans in Lebanon, Grenada, and the hot fields of Central America. Because the U.S. Administration insists on proceeding on the wrong and dangerous path, Reagan and Shultz together waged a campaign of threats and incitement against Syria and the Lebanese nationalist forces. At any rate, the two men did not deny the fact that the Syrian stand had aborted their political and military plans. Shultz stressed the need to set up a regional security alliance which, as Reagan, Shultz, and Mcfarlane imagine, would encircle Syria.

Shultz, who has waged the widest incitement campaign against Syria, has not forgotten that he can arm Jordan and make the Jordanian Army a rapid deployment force, as well as gather Israeli and U.S. agents in the region, but he has forgotten that he will not be able to guarantee the safety of these agents. This is Shultz' attitude at a time when he refrains from arming the Phalangist army because its U.S. arms will be possessed by the Lebanese people, who are strengthening their victories every day regardless of the enormous U.S. shelling from the sea.

Syria, which is leading a pan-Arab struggle that concerns all Arabs everywhere, is able to isolate those who were recruited by the United States to serve its hegemonous purposes. Even if the U.S. Administration has not learned a lesson from Lebanon or Iran, can it deny that the Camp David regime in Egypt — regardless of all the U.S. support for it — has lost its impact, that the Egyptian people are encircling it from all sides, and that the Arab regimes that cooperate with and defend it have a greater need for protection than being the defenders of this regime?

Syria, which the U.S. President seeks to encircle and isolate through arming Jordan or setting up a regional security alliance within the U.S. alliances network in the region, will prove to the whole world that its stands will not yield to blackmail or pressure. Syria is more aware of the Arab masses' feeling, which it represents, and stronger than the feelings of Reagan and Shultz because its confidence in the Arab nation matches that of the Arab masses in its stands.

The U.S. failure in Lebanon was preceded by a failure in expanding the Camp David plan. The U.S. Administration does not deny that Syria has aborted the Reagan plan and will pursue its course until the Arabs fulfil their pan-Arab aspirations and prospects toward building the future of unity — this future whichthe United States and its agents are trying to keep from being achieved in order that the Arab region may remain an arena whose future can only be decided in Washington.

Press Views Futility of Israeli Actions in Lebanon
JN231041 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Israeli Option and the Deadlock" *AL-BA'TH* says: The experience of the Israeli occupation with the forces of the Lebanese national resistance has certainly

taught the Israelis the appropriate lesson that a quick withdrawal is far better than continuing to confront the war of attrition and the costly challenges. This means that the bombardment of the Israeli air force, the movement of some Israeli patrols to the north, the issuance of military threats from time to time against the Lebanese nationalist forces do not scare anybody and will not change the realities that have emerged in the Lebanese arena, and will not succeed in imposing the so-called Israeli option on the Lebanese people as a substitute for a national Lebanon with an Arab affiliation and whose territorial integrity will be safeguarded.

No one is surprised when he sees in Lebanon today those who have close connections with Israel raising a hue and cry to regain their strength through the Zionist enemy and preferring the Israeli option to any other option under the slogan of their commitment to the 17 May agreement which Washington has imposed.

AL-BA'TH adds: These people, however, forget that they have been consumed, that events have gone beyond them, and that recent events in particular have completely removed from all calculations the possibility of seeking any settlement from outside Lebanon. The failure of the Phalangists' second attempt to settle the issue militarily and the collapse of the policy that seeks to inspire strength from the United States and Israel have proved that the only solution for emerging from the Lebanese crisis is to choose a national solution from within Lebanon, a solution whose basic features were highlighted during the Geneva national dialogue conference.

AL-BA'TH stresses that since the beginning, Syria has supported a Lebanese national dialogue as the way to restore to Lebanon the formula of coexistence among all the Lebanese. When Syria entered Lebanon, it halted the civil war in service of the principle of national dialogue, while the United States has come to Lebanon to fan the fire of this war and to transform Lebanon into a hell with its warships and aircraft. Syria's stand is the expression of the entire Lebanese people. This stand can never be changed because it is a stand embodying the pan-Arab and national relationship that exists between the two countries, and the common history and fate of Syria and Lebanon.

On the failure of the U.S. policy in Lebanon and on Syria's invariable stand *TISHRIN* says: The U.S. and Israeli policy has sustained a sweeping defeat as acknowledged by ranking U.S. officials foremost of which are Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz. While the Marines have begun withdrawing from Beirut and redeploying on board the vessels of the U.S. fleet anchored off the Lebanese coast, Shultz admitted, overtly this time, that his administration has failed to achieve its objectives in Lebanon, expressing regret that the Reagan administration has not been able to fulfil these objectives. Shultz also held Syria responsible for the failure of U.S. policy in Lebanon, saying that Syria stands as an insurmountable obstalce to what he called Lebanon's stability and because it has opposed the 17 May agreement which transforms Lebanon into a U.S.-Israeli protectorate and a bridgehead for aggression against the Arab nation.

TISHRIN adds: Reagan's decision to redeploy the Marines is only a political, military, and tactical maneuver by which Reagan aims to appease U.S. popular and official opposition which calls for the withdrawal of the Marines from Lebanon, and for their return to their homeland so that the lives of the U.S. soldiers may be safeguarded from eventual attacks such as the one against their headquarters in Beirut killing a large number of Marines.

No one will be deceived by Reagan's maneuver because it has become evident that the White House has entrusted the Marines' mission to Israel which started to escalate its aggression against the nationalists and peaceful citizens after the *New Jersey* and other units from the U.S. fleet have exhausted their resources in their attempt to make the Lebanese nationalist resistance give up its firm national stands, belittle their political and military victories, and save the reputation of Al-Jumayyil's regime. The defeat sustained by Reagan's policy is also the defeat of those who had wagered on this policy.

TISHRIN stresses that the reason for the failure of the U.S. policy is that the U.S. Administration is blatantly hostile to the peoples' aspirations and because of its close alliance with racist Zionism. Such a policy previously failed in Vietnam, Iran, and Kampuchea, and finally now in Lebanon where it assumes the task of exterminating an entire people, undermining their national components and pan-Arab affiliation, and trying to force them to don a rejected Israeli garment.

Syria, which is confronting and will continue to confront such hostile acts aimed at Lebanon's Arab character and at the entire Arab nation, will not be desisted from pursuing its honorable struggle by Shultz' threats and the shells of the *New Jersey* for the simple reason that Syria is now recording the Arabs' contemporary history and shaping their brilliant future.

Assembly Speaker Comments on Lebanese Situation

JN231957 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker Mahmud az-Zu'bi has affirmed Syria's firm stand on various issues, particularly the Arab-Zionist conflict. He pointed out Syria's continuing struggle under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad on the levels of construction, liberation, and the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. This came in a television interview he granted to a Finnish information team currently visiting Syria.

In this interview, Az-Zu'bi noted the imperialist and Zionist conspiracies and designs being perpetrated against Syria in order to subjugate it to U.S. hegemony and Zionist ambitions. He explained Syria's firm and principled stand on what is taking place in Lebanon and the conspiracies that the Lebanese people are encountering — conspiracies against their entity, future, and Arabism.

During the interview, Az-Zu'bi spoke about the function and activities of the People's Assembly on both the Arab parliamentary and the IPU levels as well as the Assembly's effective contributions in these two arenas.

Shamir Questioned on Lebanon in Brussels 20 Feb

PM240940 Brussels LE SOIR in French 22 Feb 84 p 3

["M. dn." report: "Shamir: It is Very Easy To Make Mistakes in Lebanon"]

[Text] "It is very easy to make mistakes in Lebanon..." That statement by Israeli Prime Minister Shamir in reply to a question on President al-Jumayyil's policy takes on a much more general significance in view of the current situation.

Meeting with journalists in Brussels on Monday [20 February], Mr Shamir was, of course, questioned at length on Lebanon — a subject which he is due to discuss with six EEC foreign ministers and with the Belgian prime minister. "The international community," he said, "must make every effort to prevent massacres in Lebanon and to push the various communities in that country toward national reconciliation — the only way of avoiding carnage. Aside from the security of its northern border, Israel's only concern is to have as a neighbor a stable, calm Lebanon which is no longer being torn apart." We no longer seem to be seeing, as in the past, references to the defense of the Christian community alone or the promotion of a strong government.

How does Mr Shamir view the international community's role. It is to convince the Lebanese of the need for reconciliation and to exert pressure on Syria. "The means of doing that must be sought since the Multinational Force did not succeed." Mr Shamir is not opposed to the dispatch of "blue helmets, or the use of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon in a different place, but he stressed the fact that the role of an international (or multinational) force could ever be to act only as a buffer.

As regards the defense of Israel's northern border, Mr Shamir expressed the view that security in that area is now guaranteed and that it ought henceforth to be guaranteed without Israeli military presence in southern Lebanon. But, he said, failing the Lebanese Army, we are seeking a partner to take responsibility for that task — a partner which we have not yet found. Similarly with regard to a successor to the late Major Haddad as head of the Christian militia in the south, contact was established with Beirut to choose an agreed successor, but it has been broken off. "However it is necessary to find the right man."

In Mr Shamir's view, the responsibility for the abortive attempts to reconcile the various Lebanese communities lies with Syria, which "advocates rejection" and is supported by the USSR. As regards the latter's role in Lebanon, he said that not much is known about it but that the important thing is the Soviet support for Damascus, especially in the supply of arms and military equipment.

As for the U.S. attitude, Mr Shamir refused to comment on the policy of a friendly country. However, the gesture which accompanied his statement betrayed his resentment.

The main aim of Mr Shamir's visit to Brussels is to convince the European ministers of the Israeli anxiety at the prospect of the EEC's expansion to include Spain and Portugal — a question which was to be discussed at the meeting of the ministerial cooperation council on Monday evening.

Peres Meets Shultz, Discusses Reported PLO Contacts

TA231810 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres has levelled criticism at the indirect contacts between the United States and the PLO. Peres did so in the course of his talk with Secretary of State George Shultz in Washington. Peres told Shultz that Washington should understand there is no moderate 'Arafat and that 'Arafat has not changed his policy at all. In Peres's opinion, President Mubarak's declaration in favor of 'Arafat will make it difficult for Jordanian King Husayn to join the peace process.

Shim'on Peres repeated to Secretary Shultz the Labor Party's position that Israel should withdraw from Lebanon unilaterally and unilaterally implement the accord with Beirut.

MA'ARIV Commentary on 'Secret' U.S.-PLO Contacts

TA241012 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Feb 84 p 21

[Commentary by Moshe Zaq: "Covert Actions and Overt Failures"]

[Excerpt] The Israeli Government must see to it that the United States keeps the commitment it made to Israel in the memorandum of understanding. It should be alert so as not to have Resolution 242 changed, in line with the commitment undertaken by the United States in 1975 and reiterated in 1979. Israel will certainly not agree to have the United States not fulfill its commitments to "maintain Israel's defense strength." All these points were included in the memoranda of understanding.

The government will undoubtedly be on the watch regarding the implementation of the clauses of the memorandum of understanding with the United States. However, it should not do this through a public argument in response to "disclosures" about secret contacts held 2 to 3 years ago but through ordinary diplomatic channels, by lodging a protest or by directing attention to the fault.

The Israeli Government succeeded in getting a promise from the U.S. Government that the latter would not conduct negotiations with the PLO and thus precluded U.S. recognition of the PLO. However, by making a fuss over the U.S. "secret contacts," we create the mistaken impression that the United States has already or is about to recognize the PLO and we unintentionally play into the hands of the PLO although the United States has not actually recognized the PLO. Just as a meeting between a U.S. senator or congressman with 'Arafat does not constitute U.S. recognition of the PLO, neither does 400 hours of talks with a private U.S. researcher constitute recognition.

Israeli citizens also conferred with 'Arafat in Beirut and Tunis. Does this mean that Israel has recognized an organization that wants to eliminate us?

Therefore, one should not exaggerate and make a mountain out of a molehill. True, it was an "aesthetic blemish" that Secretary of State Haig did not tell us the secret that he had been receiving reports about talks with 'Arafat. However, in those years, the Americans also complained that we did not let them in on the secret about our plans to destroy the nuclear reactor in Baghdad or the terrorist headquarters in Beirut.

Were the Americans, God forbid, to reach any agreement whatsoever with the PLO behind our backs, we would certainly raise hell. However, all they achieved in these indirect contacts was to merely entertain illusions which were later shattered when the PLO leader rejected the "Reagan plan."

In any event, George Shultz' statement about the hopelessness of the feelers sent to the PLO must close the lid on the reports printed by *THE NEW YORK TIMES* this week. They were meant to create the impression that Israel had foiled a U.S.-Palestinian dialogue by means of the Lebanese war.

As far as Israel is concerned, there is nothing wrong about foiling such a dialogue behind its back, but we actually did not do that.

The attempted U.S.-PLO dialogue had been doomed because by its very nature and essence the PLO cannot reach an arrangement with a superpower that is committed to Israel's security and well-being.

IDF Soldier Killed in Southern Lebanon 23 Feb

TA231458 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1450 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] An IDF soldier, Private Natan Sharafi, 19, from Rishon Leziyyon, was killed this morning by terrorist fire directed at an IDF convoy near An-Nabatiyah. Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that the terrorists directed fire from an orchard adjoining the road toward three IDF vehicles near the village of 'Aramta, 8 km northeast of An-Nabatiyah. The terrorists directed small arms and bazooka fire at the IDF convoy. The IDF soldiers returned fire toward the source of firing.

Attacks on IDF, Commercial Strike Reported in Sidon

TA231118 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] This morning an RPG was fired at an IDF position in the center of Sidon, and a hand grenade was thrown at an IDF vehicle. There were no casualties and IDF forces are combing the area.

Today there is an almost complete commercial strike in Sidon and the Shi'ite villages near An-Nabatiyah to mourn the 7th anniversary of the murder of Shi'ite Imam (Rahhib Gharb) from Jibshit. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that youths tried to set tires on fire several times, but, generally, order was kept.

Expropriation of Lebanese Property Disputed

TA222018 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Israel's legal status in Lebanon is better than Syria's legal status in that country. This is stated in a document prepared by the military advocate general's office and submitted to the High Court of Justice. The document was submitted to the court by the State Attorney's Office as part of a legal action brought by two plants in Lebanon whose assets were confiscated by the IDF. The plants — one located in Sidon and the other in Ad-Damur — complained that the IDF had damaged their property and had thus violated international law. The military advocate general's office argued in response that the expropriated property belonged to terrorists, and that since the IDF was fighting them, it was allowed to take the property as though it were booty taken from the battlefield.

IDF Recording Names of Refugees in S. Lebanon

TA240710 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] In the last few days the IDF has begun recording the names of Christian refugees fleeing to southern Lebanon and some 8,000 have been listed so far. It is estimated that their total number is 15,000. Another 3,000 refugees have meanwhile returned to their villages, to Beirut, and the towns surrounding it. Some of them made their way back on an improvised shipping line between Sidon and Juniyah initiated by a Lebanese enterpeneur.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that many of the refugees have announced that they intend to remain in southern Lebanon for a long time and they are now looking for living quarters. With the help of Christian welfare organizations, the IDF has been distributing to the refugees large quantities of food and clothing sent by the Saudi businessmen, Rafiq al-Hariri, who has been mediating in the Lebanese crisis.

EL Al has opened a counter at Rosh Haniqra to sell flight tickets and several dozen refugees have used this way to go abroad.

Newspaper Commentary on Lebanon Security Issues

'AL HAMISHMAR — 23 Feb

TA231113 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Feb 84 p 6

[Commentary by Yisra'el Zamir: "The Bluff Called Security Arrangements"]

[Text] For a moment one could believe that everyone, in fact, wants to withdraw from Lebanon. Both Likud and Alignment members claim they have no interest in annexing that miserable country, and all they want is to get out as soon as possible. At the same time — through suitable "security arrangements" — they want to guarantee that Katyushas will no longer hit the northern border settlements.

In theory one can say tnat there is almost a national consensus about this. After all, the defense minister, the chief of staff, the minister of communications, and many Knesset members repeat more or less the same story, with variations regarding the length of time needed to remain in Lebanon until those "security arrangements" are achieved and we leave there with joy and cheers.

All this sounds fine and good, if it is a question of security arrangements with the Christians, a la Sharon. At that time, in our stupidity, we tried to change a country's regime and crown a president for it. But all that is history, and it would be better to forget it as soon as possible.

We are now stuck in Lebanon, while the south is populated by many Shi'ites. We are not approaching them as equals to equals and asking to sign an agreement, because they are wandering through the streets and we are manning the tanks, patrolling, and searching from above. We are an army of conquest with all that implies.

An army of conquest does not negotiate with the conquered; it dictates peace arrangements. This is what the generals of the Allies did in Germany at the end of World War II, and this is what conquerers have always done with the conquered. Negotiations are conducted on an equal basis, not from above. Sitting above makes the conquerer hated by the population and attacks are not long in coming. It is a fact that with the conquest of the villages and hamlets of southern Lebanon, we were received there with rice and flowers. Now we are received with grenades and explosives. Something has happened to the Shi'ite sect. Our tanks and armored personnel carriers have not left them indifferent and smiling. The joy about our arrival as people liberating them from the terrorists' burden has changed with time into burning hatred. This is not something to be surprised about: We have behaved as a military government, with all that involves, and caused much suffering to the population.

We are declaring that we have no interest in staying there and we want an arrangement, but it turns out that in the Shi'ite sect itself internal changes have also occurred as a result of our stay there. There has been a grave radicalization toward Khomeyniism, hatred of Israel has taken root, and the organizing of terrorist cells has begun. This is no longer the quiet Shi'ite sect whose women throw rice at the tanks. That stage has gone, never to return.

As long as we remain in Lebanon, there will be nobody with whom we can conduct negotiations. As long as we are there, the rejectionist-hatred front against us is gradually being formed, and there is no chance or hope, in the foreseeable future, that a responsible and moderate leadership will suddenly be found, to which everyone will say "amen" and which will sit down to negotiate with us. This is impossible from the psychological viewpoint, just as a U.S. officer was not received with sympathy for negotiations between equals in any town in Southeast Asia. This is because the mayor of this town was in an inferior position as long as the tanks were in the town. Furthermore, the townsmen underwent enough suffering for feelings of hatred and revenge to permeate them, and cause a rising against any arrangement, to the point of terrorist acts.

This comparison is not precise, of course. Some people will claim: "How can IDF officers be compared with U.S. officers?" Heaven fobid. Except that from the psychological aspect, the feeling of conquest and burning insult of the conquered and the suppressed are similar. This is true even though the IDF is an army of merciful men and the conquest is "enlightened." No agreement acceptable to the entire Shi'ite sect in southern Lebanon will be accepted even if there is a group of mukhtars or Shi'ite clerics who agree to negotiate with us. The value of such an agreement would be the same as that signed on 17 May with Amin al-Jumayyil, and terrorism will go back to what it was before.

There is apparently no alternative to a withdrawal to the international border, with southen Lebanon being ruled by Shi'ites, Christians and all the rest, and conducting negotiations from that point. Of course, we must warn that if the days of the Katyushas return, we will be forced to react sharply. However, it seems that everyone thinks it would be in the Shi'ite-Christian-Druze interest not to let the PLO return to what it was in southern Lebanon, and not to turn their lives into an insanity of fire and bloodbaths. This, of course, is a daring demand which in fact says that nothing has been achieved throughout our stay in Lebanon. This will not be complimentary to the Likud government, since it will have to return to May 1982, the time before the Lebanon war, with one difference: in July 1981 a peace agreement was achieved with the PLO about a cease-fire which lasted a full year. Had it not been for the "Cedars Campaign" it is conceivable that the calm would have been kept.

Signing peace agreements is only possible from equal opening positions, not when our tanks are parked in An-Nabatiyah, Tyre, and Sidon. It is the burning hatred that torpedoes any possible agreement, if we continue to conduct negotiations from tank turrets.

Therefore "security arrangements" as the Likud government thinks of them are nothing but one big bluff, a sort of hope for the far distant future. Anyone who uses this bluff should know that it is just "lip service," and should know that he is lying to himself and to us. His genuine intention is to stay in Lebanon for many years.

DAVAR — 24 Feb

TA241026 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 24 Feb 84 p 15

[Commentary by Tali Zelinger: "Adding Fuel to the Fire"]

[Text] Last week the Air Force acted three times in Lebanon. According to the IDF spokesman's announcements, on all three occasions it attacked "bases where terrorists are deployed and which are used as a departure point" and hit "two-and three-storied buildings." At the end of each one of the three announcements the soothing words "all our aircraft returned safely to base" were heard. Well, in this week's three attacks, too, not one missile hit any one of the Israeli aircraft, neither a terrorist nor a Syrian missile. The fire that rose from the buildings that had been hit did not ignite a fire. We can heave a sigh of relief. This week the IDF also carried out what turned into a fairly routine action: the penetration by mobile patrols,

tanks, and armored personnel carriers into the area north of the Al-Awwali River. The foreign news agency correspondents, nourished by the Christian Lebanese Radios' "exercises," reported Israeli military movements around Khaldah and the Beirut suburbs. True, at the end of last week an IDF force did reach Ad-Damur, but this week there was no deviation from the routine of the normal patrols of only a few kilometers from the Al-Awwali River, not along the coastal traffic artery. However, there was great nervousness this week, which was not helped by the false and hysterical reports of the Christian radio stations and the foreign networks; nor was it helped by the reinforced patrols that traveled along two arteries north of the Al-Awwali, a larger force than normal which even spent the night there.

For what? What hope or advantage is there in Israeli military activity adding fuel and logs to the fire in Lebanon and making matters even more smoky? The sophisticated will say that battle smoke by its very nature does not harm carrying out missions and has never interfered with conquering targets. However, in this case it seems that the missions and the targets were not defined, and so the haze and smoke were not intended to cover them, but to conceal their absence.

Israel, which is acting in Lebanon out of what appears to be nervousness, resembles a mouse trapped in its hole which, whenever there is an opportunity to escape, lets out squeaks and scrabbling that bring the cat to again block up its hole. The panicky mouse no longer knows what to do and it decides not to decide, but to scare the cat instead of escaping. Instead of cutting the Lebanese sore open with a sharp knife — and any decision made will hurt one way or another — Israel is not making a decision . Nobody is fooling himself into thinking there is a convenient option in this case — Israel is working along two parallel lines that point clearly to confusion and the absence of decision-making skill. It is both waiting "until the Lebanese smoke clears," and making loud noises. In the event of a genuine alert being sounded, the rising and falling sirens will be too late, too lacking in impact.

Viewed in terms of a profit and loss statement, the military activity currently being conducted does not have many advantages. The bombardments have a deterrent and disturbing aspect and some sort of a pyschological effect, but they cost the Israeli taxpayer a great deal and he, who is currently so agile in matters of investments and profits, is not opening his mouth to scream about this terrible waste. We can cautiously estimate that every person killed in a terrorist "deployment and departure point" base who is hit in an Air Force bombardment costs Israel 10 million shekels, perhaps more. The work of the attack sorties is skilled work, complicated, and involved; it involves preparations and activities prior to and after the bombardment. Everything costs money, and, what is worse, may cost human lives. If one could be convinced of the advantage gained from these attacks, (almost) any cost would be justified. But it seems the terrorists are gaining more of an advantage than is the IDF from the aerial bombardments. They are learning how to disperse and hide themselves; they are improving the guerrilla nature of their war, and they are not gathering in one place; they are winning the sympathy of the locals who are developing resentment and hatred of the attacking planes casting shadows and sometimes bombs over civilians near the bases. The main point is that the harmful hits by our courageous planes cannot appreciably disrupt what appears to be the terrorists' renewed organizing.

The immediate danger to the assault planes is limited and not much different from the risk involved in similar attacks against justified targets. We can even estimate that the risk is less than it is in other cases because Syria, which is parked in Lebanon, is showing no signs of willingness to intervene directly on behalf of the terrorists and it is reading correctly the Israeli intentions which are not — so we may believe for the moment — to "get into a war" with Syria. However, we should not put too much reliance on Syrian ability to show restraint. Also the possibility of a Syrian reinforcement — in the least terrible event — of its anti-aircraft system and missile batteries in Lebanon must be taken into account, in view of the claim that Syria is committed to defend its forces there against Israeli aerial activity. Such a reinforcement would make any negotiations later over the withdrawal of the Syrian forces from Lebanon, or at least their thinning-out there, more difficult.

As for the mechanized patrols north of the Al-Awwali River, these may perhaps have more operational justification, since they are guided by intelligence reports and operational needs connected with a terrorist presence in the area under Druze control. The patrols have a long-term deterrent aspect and an immediate operational aspect. The ability to act on the ground in the most effective way justifies the risk, not necessarily a grave one, of moving north of the river. At the same time, the first time that such an IDF patrol is attacked and, heaven forbid, its soldiers are hit, there will be an uproar. Perhaps this is what is needed. It may be that only the shock of IDF soldiers being hit on a larger scale — and already nobody is paying attention any more to the announcements of soldiers being wounded throughout the Lebanese state — will lead the decision-making forum to make one of the several difficult decisions it must make. And the public is silent. The public is also prepared to wait for the next disaster before beginning to scream and demand that decisions be made. And if we wait long enough, we will yet perhaps succeed in worsening the situation to a general war of attrition with Syria in the eastern sector, a war in which, at the moment, nobody is interested, and which would necessarily take on different dimensions, as Israel has already repeatedly declared through its leaders and deputy leaders.

The army, as we have already said, want to redeploy. Nobody today speaks in terms of a total withdrawl without arrangements for the security of northern Israel, not because of the fear of losing the last justification for the outbreak of the war in June 1982, but because of the genuine need to ensure the Galilee's security. The IDF leaves the problem of lost honor to the politicians who, it appears, are dealing with it instead of being busy with what really matters. The defense minister, so senior sources complained this week, is not making decisions and therefore is not exercising his professional authority on the government and its leaders. He is not doing enough to further the interests of security in the sense of translating the army's operational views into political decisions. The man, so it is being claimed with regret, is more of a politician than his elegant appearance signifying honesty and rational thought would indicate. If he sees fit to do so, from the party-political aspect, he will leave the IDF on the Al-Awwali for even 10 years more, concerned by the

bitterness of senior army officers. What will be to Israel's credit is, perhaps, the animal-like survival skills of those holding power, who smell the electoral catastrophe lying in wait and continue to decide not to decide. The nation is napping, but it could wake up any moment.

Until then Israel is going to the brink, doing but not doing, wanting to but scared to, and its leaders are showing these fears and indecision in each of their declarations of valor and in almost every one of the military actions they approve, even if with sighs and some uncomfortable shifting in chairs. The defense minister must ask for a limited number of concrete proposals with a purely operational nature, not political or concerned with policy, from the IDF, for safeguarding the north of the country and its security. He must present these proposals to the Cabinet and decide on one of them immediately. Any delay only weakens Israel and exposes its weakness. It is pulverizing the IDF.

HA'ARETZ — 22 Feb

TA221145 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Feb 84 p 7

[Commentary by Dan Margalit: "A U.S. Tragedy in Shultz's Style"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz's claim that the IDF's withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf mountains closed the lid on the hope that Syria might acquiesce to negotiate arouses great astonishment. The government did not pull the IDF out of the Druze area because it realized the hopelessness of its presence there; it did so under pressure by Israeli public opinion. Public opinion refused to accept the claim that the IDF was actually not sustaining considerable casualties in the evacuated area; it refused to see its sons mediating among local leaders and coming under alien fire; and it forced Menahem Begin once again to pay the price of a war without consensus and pull out.

Washington did not approve of this move, but it is the last one to say anything about domestic policy considerations overcoming the foreign and security considerations of a sovereign democracy. Everything the United States did in Lebanon from the time the Marines returned to Beirut stemmed from similar considerations of interpartisan politics.

Two days ago Shultz said that the IDF's withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf area persuaded Hafiz al-Asad that he did not have to give Israel anything in exchange, because the latter would retreat of its own will. Shultz regarded this as the source of all evil, although Washington's actions were a repetition, many times over, of similar moves. The feeling in Damascus that the Marines would withdraw in anticipation of the U.S. elections was the main cause for the hardening of the Syrian pharaoh. If he had any doubts about this, there was the famous affair of the release of the black pilot by Jesse Jackson, which provided him with final proof of the weakness of President Ronald Reagan's administration.

The damage Israel inflicted to its deterrent power during the war has been analyzed many times. The impact of the blow now inflicted on the United States — not as a direct threat to its security, but as a blow to its status as the strongest Western superpower — will only become clear in the next months and years.

With a hostile Congress and a hesitant U.S. Administration, with a President who does not hide the fact that the main consideration guiding his national policy is reelection, and with a Pentagon whose hostility regarding the expedition of the Marines to Lebanon was an open secret, what were the grounds for Donald Rumsfeld's hope that Al-Asad would agree to negotiate with him?

The United States has never before reached the political negotiating table under such inferior conditions. After the Yom Kippur War, Henry Kissinger exerted pressure on Anwar As-Sadat through the airlift to Israel and with the entire might of U.S. prestige, which was not put to the test. In his memoirs, he described Al-Asad as the toughest and most difficult leader in the Middle East to negotiate with. If their contacts ultimately succeeded it was, among other things, because the Syrian ruler saw Kissinger's America as a country that declared a military alert during the Yom Kippur War. However, now that Washington has got cold feet after it realized that the *New Jersey*'s fire power was not as strong as Reagan bragged about, it is left with no cards for real bargaining with Damascus.

The Americans inflicted on themselves that which Shultz attributed to the Israeli withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf area: They were wrong in hinting to Al-Asad that if Lebanon was not enough they could also talk with him about the Golan Heights. Initially, the Americans announced that they would not let their ally Amin al-Jumayyil fall, but according to disclosures in *NEWSWEEK*, they knew about the so-called "Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha] land." In other words, they realized that the terrorists were again infiltrating into Beirut, but they did not allow the Lebanese Christian forces to block their way. Under these circumstances, why should Al-Asad want to make any concessions whatsoever? If he agrees to come to terms with a dwarfed Al-Jumayyil at the B'abda palace, there is no reason why he should do it as part of a concession to the United States. He will agree to it as part of a Syrian plan.

A superpower must maintain its credibility. If it had no intention to use military power, it should not have started it. It should not have announced that it would not let Al-Jumayyil fall, and Shultz should certainly not have angrily ignored the advice Yitzhaq Rabin gave him at the time that he should give up negotiations between Al-Jumayyil and Ari'el Sharon, and fly directly to Al-Asad. There are issues, particularly involving the use of military power and the establishment of patronage, which superpowers do not discuss but rather talk about — whenever they want to — in terms of "red lines." These lines have an important advantage: They make plain to one superpower what is considered a prerequisite by the other. However, they also impose a burden because they call on the superpower to defend its red lines very tightly. Shultz and his colleagues drew red lines along and across Lebanon, but they allowed their rivals to blur them.

The results will be noticed in the entire Middle East arena, not only in the helplessness of the U.S. courting Damascus, but also in the rudeness of Husni Mubarak who ignored his host, Reagan,

under his very nose and called for summoning Yasir 'Arafat to the Israeli-Palestinian negotiating table. The results will not only be noticed in Beirut but also in Amman. It is no coincidence that King Husayn has signalled that he is not very interested in resuming the political process, and it is no accident that he refuses to rely on the United States. Also, Husayn realizes that 'Arafat is carefully watching what is happening to the confused administration in Washington and what Reagan has had to pay. The king probably wonders whether the time has not come to try to gather the PLO factions which were dispersed all over the place during the last war, and bring them to the camp of his hated enemy, Al-Asad. Arabists such as Professor Gavri'el Ben-Dor and others assess that 'Arafat realizes that in the absence of a territorial stronghold, he will lose his grip on the world of Palestinian terrorism to his rivals, and that the return route to Lebanon goes through Damascus.

This represents a real threat when he has been toying with the idea of entering political negotiations with Israel. The threat lies in the fact that 'Arafat will have no qualms in betraying him at the last minute, and because Syria is at the height of its strength and might use military power to prevent the king from looking for a political arrangement. Under these circumstances — because of what has happened to the Americans in Lebanon and because of what Shultz attributes to Israel, although it mainly applies to his administration — it is hard to read the declarations of national security adviser Robert McFarlane, that America will rush to Jordan's defense if it opts for political negotiations with Israel, and not feel their pathos. Where will this defense come from? From the cannons of the *New Jersey* cruising the Lebanese coast? From indirectly aiming the cannons at the refugee camps in Jordan proper over Israel's head? Or, perhaps, from the Gulf of Aqaba?

America — perhaps here is where it resembles Israel — is ending the Lebanese adventure in need, first and foremost, of a fundamental restoration of its credibility and deterrent power to a point where it may continue to conduct its policy in the Middle East.

HA'ARETZ — 21 Feb

TA211358 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
21 Feb 84 p 1

[Commentary by 'Oded Zaray: "Israel's Pink Lines"]

[Text] In the present circumstances, yesterday's Air Force bombings were a far cry from drawing red lines for terrorists and Lebanese leftists, not to mention Syria. Nevertheless, they still illustrate Israel's interest and its ability to intervene in events north of the Al-Awwali River.

It seems that the red lines that remained following Operation Peace for Galilee and the IDF's withdrawal from the Ash-Shuf area have turned pink. The continuous bombings on Bhamdun and the infiltration of hundreds of terrorists into West Beirut through Abu Musa's [Sa'id Musa Muragha] territory emphasize the fact that Israel's frequent warnings are not taken into consideration. Moreover, the bombing of a building belonging to Jibril's organization 5 months after the evacuation of Bhamdun indicates that there is a good chance that an operation may be carried out soon in Barja, near the Al-Awwali River.

It would be a mistake to ignore the obvious writing on the wall painted yesterday by Al-Asad, Birri, Abu Salih [Nimr Salih], and Junblatt in Damascus. Through its allies, Syria is seeking to turn Lebanon into an Arab confrontation state with all the implications this would have on the issue of the terrorists' presence. As long as the Syrians do not change their interpretation of the situation in Israel and the current balance of forces in Lebanon is not altered, it is unlikely that yesterday's bombings, however important they may have been, have deterred the Syrians and their allies.

IDF Commander on Security of Southern Border

TA231059 Tel Aviv BAMAHANE in Hebrew
23 Feb 84 p 7

[Report by Daniyel Stocklin]

[Excerpts] Although the southern border is quieter than the northern one, there are constant attempts day and night to infiltrate the area and attack IDF soldiers and civilians. Mobile means and trained forces equipped for this sort of mission are necessary to close off such a long border. The training and equipment of these units are quite different from those used to prepare an army for a full-scale war. This was stated by the commander of the Southern Command, Major General Moshe Bar-Kokhva, in an interview with *BAMAHANE*.

Maj Gen Bar-Kokhva added that the war in Lebanon and the field security needs of the entire IDF have curtailed manpower and means, therefore calling for cuts in resources and manpower. This compelled the Southern Command's division in charge of securing the borders to tackle these difficulties and find effective solutions to the infiltrations and attacks.

Question: It has recently been published that the Egyptian Army continues to strengthen and develop, and prepare for a possible military confrontation. How does the Southern Command see the situation? Does this not constitute a change in the Egyptian attitude toward the peace treaty?

Answer: It is not just the events in neighboring countries that cause us to prepare an army for war. History shows that a trained and strong army may prevent war and deter aggression, thus achieving all the objectives without fighting on the battlefield. Nevertheless, if the army is prepared for war from the point of view of training, capable commanders, means, and operational plans, then when war erupts all these preparations are highly valuable and help achieve victory. This preparedness is fundamental because the enemy is also aware of it.

The command headquarters, commands subordinate to it, and the divisions try to proceed and perform according to this concept. The command's plan consolidates and fills out this concept.

Question: Which innovations have been introduced to the Egyptian and Jordanian armies which border on the Southern Command?

Answer: The Egyptian and Jordanian Armies have been reorganized in the last few years. This is reflected in the sophistication and modernization of their means of war, particularly in training large combat groups. They have also emphasized the issue of combined fighting by corps and branches. These armies are training in far more advanced methods than in the past. The Egyptian and Jordanian Armies have incorporated war theories and combat concepts of both Western and Eastern superpowers. These armies are not content with the current scope, modernization or development of their troops, but are expanding regular divisions and reorganizing their reserves to enable them to merge [line dropped in the paper] adopted in the past. The components of these troops may gather in a "coalition" on the southern front, and this calls on the IDF and the Southern Command to come up with the proper answers.

Question: Has the Israeli Navy increased patrols in the Gulf of Elat after the terrorists left Tripoli for North Yemen? Is there a danger of terrorist infiltrations by sea in the Gulf of Elat?

Answer: The Southern Command must be ready to foil any infiltration, not only on land but also on sea and in the air. The Southern Command will seek the assistance and cooperation of the Air Force and the Navy. There are basic procedures for this cooperation in case it is necessary to foil any sort of infiltration.

Investments in West Bank To Decrease in 1984

TA230847 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Feb 84 p 1

[Report by Shlomo Ma'oz]

[Text] The budgetary distress will cause investments in settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to drop by 13 percent in the budgetary year 1984. Thus the decrease in investments in these areas will reach 33 percent within 2 years. This emerges from the state budget placed before the Knesset yesterday. The cut in the settlement budget is greater than that of other government ministry budgets. In contrast to his, investments in procurement of land will rise by 45 percent.

From the data of the Agriculture Ministry budget it emerges that investments in settlements will total $26 million in 1984 (5,022 million shekels in the budgetary costs). The most severe drop in settlement investments will actually be in the West Bank, a drop of 20 percent and a cumulative drop of 38 percent within 2 years. The decrease in investments in the Jordan Rift valley will be 9 percent and accumulating within 2 years to 27 percent; investments in the Qatif bloc and the slopes of Mount Hebron will only be 3 percent and 30 percent within 2 years.

Matityahu Drobles, the head of the Zionist Federation's settlement department, who was asked to react to the data, reported that the drop in investments is known to him and he has submitted a report on this to the prime minister and finance minister. He also said that, according to the program, 11 new settlements are to be established beyond the Green Line during the coming budgetary year. The *HA'ARETZ* correspondent points out that the Finance Ministry this year avoided pointing out specifically how many settlements are to be built beyond the Green Line.

From Ministry of Construction budget data it emerges that in 1984 the ministry will build in the West Bank, in new and existing settlements, only 100 housing units including construction in the new settlement of Na'ama. In addition to this, the ministry will put 1,500 housing units into operation in the new towns of Qarne Shomron, 'Immanu'el, Ari'el, Alfe Menashe, Ma'ale Adummim and Giv'at Ze'ev. It has also been reported that another settlement is to be established in the Qatif bloc, and the groundwork and public institution work is to be completed there.

Committee Discusses Human Rights in Territories

TA222039 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The Knesset Public Audit Committee summoned a group of Arab jurists and public figures from Judaea and Samaria to testify today during the debate on the observance of human rights in the territories. One of the people who was asked to appear is Arab journalist Ziyad Abu Ziyad, whose testimony before the committee last week was prevented.

Today representatives of the Jewish settlements in Judaea and Samaria appeared before the committee, and our correspondent Gil Sadan reports from the committee session:

[Begin videotape][Sadan] The Knesset committees again debated the Karp report today, dealing with what it includes and what it omits. The Knesset Interior and Constitution, Law and Justice Committees met jointly, and heard from Likud MK Beni Shalita, for example, that the campaign in support of Karp is not conducted for its own sake but stems from opposition to the settlements.

At the Knesset Public Audit Committee, Alignment MK Tamat Eshel asked the guests who appeared before the committee — the representatives of the Jewish settlements in the territories — why Arab police are forbidden to investigate Jews. Pinhas Wallerstein from the Jewish settlements council replied: We were told to regard an Arab police officer like a lamp post, namely to realize that he is there, but to leave him alone and not harm him. Pinhas Wallerstein contended that a legal absurdity has been created in the territories, where Israeli citizens in the territories are discriminated against compared with the rest of the population in Israel, and he cited the following example:

[Wallerstein] The family of a Jew who dies and is buried in Judaea and Samaria is not eligible to be compensated for burial fees. But another Jew, a citizen of Israel, who dies in New York, his family would receive compensation.

[Sadan] Meanwhile, the Knesset Public Audit Committee is debating a way to guarantee that the Knesset and the state comptroller would have control and supervision over the 17,000 civilian administration employees in Judaea and Samaria, even if Israeli law cannot at present be applied to the territories.

[MK Avraham Katz-'Oz] When 17,000 Jewish and Arab employees — primarily Arab — are paid by Israel, it should be clear what norms constitute their work conditions and terms. If there are such norms, I believe it is the state comptroller's duty to impose supervision and see how things are conducted.

Committee To Settle Legal System Issue in Territories

TA231024 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Feb 84 p 16

[Report by Yitzhaq Shur]

[Text] The legal adviser to the IDF General Staff in the West Bank, Lieutenant Colonel Yo'el Zinger, yesterday told the Knesset Public Audit Committee that a committee had been established, headed by Plia Albeck of the Ministry of Justice, to propose solutions to the existing legal situation in the territories.

The existing law in the territories as regards the Arabs is Jordanian. The body dealing with its implementation is the civilian administration. Government policy is to get Jews to settle, but not to make Israeli law applicable. There is, therefore, a rift between the settlement policy and the legal situation. There is another rift between Jordanian law and the way in which the government ministries deal with the settlers.

Yesterday the committee discussed the legal system in Judaea and Samaria, and invited representatives of the settlements of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The chairman of the council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, Yo'el Ben-Nun, said the goal was to make Israeli law applicable to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza, and they would support using the police to bear the burden for everyday security, but as long as the IDF was the ruling force in the field, there was no alternative to the police being given their orders by the military government. The double standards would disappear as soon as Israeli law was fully imposed on the entire area.

To a question by MK Tamar Eshel about why the settlers were not prepared to be investigated by Arab policemen, the settlers' representative answered that instructions had been received from policy commanders to regard Arab policemen like a telephone pole: If you see him you can avoid hitting him, but if you do not see him you might crash into him.

Youth Leaders To Struggle Against Settlement

TA231921 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] In a meeting of the headquarters of the Hashomer Hatza'ir [affiliated with MAPAM], Hano'ar Ha'oved [affiliated with the Labor Party] and Mahanot Ha'olim [affiliated with MAPAI] youth movements, it was decided to step up the public struggle against the government so that it does not send nuclei of these movements to outposts in the territories. Our correspondent Asher Schwartz reports that 200,000 youngsters are members of these three movements which oppose the establishment of outposts in Judaea and Samaria. The heads of the kibbutz movements and the NAHAL deputy commander participated in the meeting today. The secretary of Hashomer Hatza'ir's Hakibbutz Ha'artzi settlement movement reported that, thanks to the pressures exerted by the settlement movements, the establishment of outposts in Judaea and Samaria has almost stopped.

Bethlehem Mayor Supports PLO Political Solution

TA230940 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 Feb 84 p 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has said that the West Bank supports 'Arafat because he is in favor of a political solution. The inhabitants of the West Bank believe he will follow the political path. If 'Arafat does not take this path, the West Bank will reconsider its attitude to him.

Frayj rejected the military path out of hand, saying that a solution should only be found through peaceful ways. He made these remarks last night to a French Socialist Party delegation headed by (Andre Bloun).

As for the Jordanian option, the Bethlehem mayor said that its time had passed. "If Jordan rejected the Jordanian option in previous years, how will it accept it now after so many settlements have been established," Frayj asked. The Bethlehem mayor supports mutual recognition between the PLO andIsrael, in accordance with the political program prepared by France and Egypt.

As for the MAPAM platform on the Palestinian issue, he said he would sign it with his own hand.

Jewish Settlers, Arab Mukhtars Meet in Samaria

TA230520 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] A meeting was held last night at the settlement of Elqana in Samaria between local settlers and neighboring Arab mukhtars. Meetings of this kind have been held for several months at the initiative of the civilian administration and the Village Leagues. Another meeting will be held next week, this time in an Arab village.

Hebron Bus Station Planned for Expropriated Area

TA240608 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The Hebron municipality will shortly begin building a new bus station on an expropriated lot in the center of the city. The 6-dunam lot belongs to several people in Hebron. One of them has announced his opposition to the expropriation.

Zamir Shemesh, acting Hebron mayor and civilian administration representative, told our correspondent Shalom Oren that he believes the expropriation of this land is for the benefit of the inhabitants. Our correspondent believes that once the construction of the bus station begins, the area where the old station had been located will be handed over to the Association for Renewing Jewish Settlement in Hebron to erect a residential building on.

New Nabulus Jail for West Bank Prisoners

TA230950 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 Feb 84 p 6

[Text] A central jail for security prisoners who are inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria is to be built in 1984 on the skeleton of an existing building in Nabulus, in Samaria, which will cost $6 million. The central jail in Nabulus will take in up to 1,000 prisoners who are inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria. It is to be built as a result of the rise in the number of prisoners and in order to improve living conditions for the security prisoners. This emerges from the budgetary proposal of the Israel Police and Prisons Authority for 1984.

In 1984, the Prisons Authority will be prepared for 7,200 prisoners. During this year, the main jail for Judaea and Samaria will open with some 1,000 cells. The building work involved in enlarging the jails of Janin, Gaza, Qishon, Shata, Tel Mond and Ma'siyahu will be completed. By the end of 1984 the Prisons Authority will have about 7,400 places in jail at its disposal.

Red Cross Visits Israeli Prisoners in Syria

TA231101 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 23 Feb 84 p 1

[Report from Geneva by Sari Robert]

[Text] Today the spokesman of the International Red Cross reported in Geneva that its representatives in Syria visited our three prisoners on Monday, 20 February.

The organization's representatives were accompanied by a physician, and it has been reported that the prisoners' condition is satisfactory. The prisoners have received letters from their families and letters have been passed on via the organization's representatives.

The previous visit to the IDF prisoners in Syria was on 31 December 1983.

Aid to Liberian Health Care Institute Reported

TA231311 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Israel is to help establish an advanced eye care institute in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia. This was agreed upon in a talk between Health Minister Eli'ezer Shostak and the Liberian health minister.

Our correspondent Elihu Ben-On reports that the visiting minister asked for further aid from Israel in the field of public health.

ALGERIA

Transport Minister Meets With USSR Official

LD232009 Algiers APS in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Algiers 23 Feb (APS) — Saleh Goudjil, minister of transport and a member of the Central Committee, received today at his office Yakov Petrovich Ryabov, member of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the USSR State Committee for External Economic Relations, and second chairman of the Algerian-Soviet Joint Committee.

The talks dealt with cooperation between the two sides, especially the participation of the USSR in implementing the Algerian railway program.

Mali President Stops Over After Leaving FRG

LD232238 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Mali President Moussa Traore made a stopover in Algiers this afternoon. He was greeted by Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi, by the ministers of Veterans and Social Protection, and the deputy minister in charge of cooperation.

President Traore had just ended an official visit to the FRG.

LIBYA

Government Reacts to Jordan's Severance of Ties

King Husayn's Policies Scored

LD231844 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Yesterday, the Jordanian regime announced the severance of its political relations with the Jamahiriyah on the pretext of a demonstration staged by the Arabs residing in the Jamahiriyyah outside the Jordanian Embassy in Tripoli. The demonstration was held to protest the capitulatory trend in Jordanian policy, which has become more definite since the recent visit of King Husayn to Washington and his meetings with the U.S. and Egyptian presidents. The Egyptian regime has had full relations with the Zionist enemy for several years, based on an agreement the Arab world unanimously branded as treason. Egypt was boycotted by the Arabs as a result of the Baghdad summit, where Husayn was one of the witnesses.

As background to the Jordanian decision to sever relations with the Jamahiriyah, we present the following report:

King Husayn is anxious to make occasional pilgrimages to the White House to search for a role to play, after he has been bypassed and neglected. This time the meeting was a tripartite one led by Reagan. Husni Mubarak had a hand in arranging this new plot. A responsible senior American official had stated that the United States is prepared to give political and military support to Jordan in return for its participation in talks with Egypt and the Zionist enemy to settle the Palestinian liquidation. This official hinted that the United States would protect Jordan against any Syrian attacks in retaliation for such talks.

Strangely, the visits and the contacts by the king with the U.S. Administration always come when tension increases and when Zionist arrogance grows, with the blessing of the United States, and it strikes, destroys and violates Arab dignity. It is no secret that Husayn is seeking reassurances that the U.S. Administration is still blessing his throne.

The story about the Jamahiriyah told by Husayn, whose regime announced the severance of relations yesterday, is known, and clear to the Arab masses. Several times the Jamahiriyah tried in various ways to draw the attention of King Husayn to the seriousness of his actions. First came Camp David, and everyone knows that the king was (?risking) [word indistinct] and under U.S. pressure. Then followed the confederation plan between Jordan and the Palestinians in 1982, as well as the creation of the Jordanian rapid deployment forces financed by the United States.

In these actions, the Arab masses in the Jamahiriyah found that King Husayn's trickery had reached its peak, and that the least they could do was to stage a march of protest to the Jordanian Embassy to express their indignation.

Foreign Bureau Issues Statement

LD241003 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0830 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, 24 Feb (JANA) — Yesterday, the Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison issued a statement with regard to the Jordanian Government's decision to unilaterally sever relations with the Jamahiriyah, placing responsibility for the consequences of the decision to sever the fraternal bonds between the two fraternal peoples on the Jordanian regime alone. Here is the text of the statement:

The Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison met and studied the situation arising from the Jordanian regime's false accusations against the Libyan Arab people and the Jordanian Government's decision to sever relations with the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

The Popular Committee declares the following:
1. The Jordanian Government's decision is unilateral and the Jordanian regime alone bears responsibility for the consequences of breaking off the fraternal bonds between the two fraternal peoples. While condemning this irresponsible action, the committee will submit the question of Libyan-Jordanian relations to the next meetings of the basic popular conferences — the decision-making bodies — since this committee is not empowered to adopt the decision to sever relations with any country.

2. The Popular Committee affirms that it is not an honor for the Libyan Arab people to have relations in any form with treacherous regimes that are obedient to the orders of American imperialism and receive their orders from the Zionists, with whom they meet both overtly and covertly.

3. Relations with the Jordanian regime do not differ at all from the relations with the Zionist entity — they are two sides of the same coin.

The committee wonders about the real reasons for the Jordanian regime to adopt such a step, bearing in mind that we are aware of the fact that the real reasons lie in the treacheries of King Husayn of Jordan and the regime of his government against the Arab nation and its issues, the latest of which was his meeting with the Egyptian regime — which committed great treason and recognized the Zionist enemy, surrendered before him, and sold Egypt and isolated it from the Arab nation and which the Baghdad summit decided to boycott.

The Jordanian agent regime's action has come to conceal the treacherous meeting held recently among Husayn, Reagan, and Husni Mubarak with a view to hatching a new plot to sell the land, sign more capitulatory agreements, recognize the enemy and remove the blockade on him, and end the Palestinian presence in the Arab land.

It is ironical that they betrayed and squandered, and then came to shed tears and unilaterally sever relations, pretending to forget the Arab masses' right to be angry, and rise up to reject their treacheries. These masses, which sensed the danger around them, are not in need of incitement. They are the same masses that came out yesterday in the West Bank and set fire to pictures of the traitorous king and his flag.

After all this, we wonder: Were all these masses incited by the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, or was it national awareness of the danger and discovery of the Jordanian regime's practices that incited them?

In conclusion, the Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison explains that the Jordanian regime has committed a serious violation of the Arab League charter and the resolutions of the Arab summit conference. The committee wonders: Is there any meaning for the Arab League after this? Are the summit conferences of any use when they are violated every hour of every day? This is a matter that might drive the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah not to attend.

Envoys Discuss Jordan Situation

LD231936 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli 23 Feb (JANA) — The Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison this afternoon summoned the Arab ambassadors accredited to the Jamahiriyah in order to explain the unilateral decision taken by the Jordanian regime to break off its relations with Libya. The committee explained to the Arab ambassadors that it would take the matter up with the basic people's congresses so that they may respond.

The Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison also briefed the ambassadors on the consequences of this decision, in that it violates the Arab League Charter and summit resolutions. From this point of view, the Arab League does not have meaning anymore.

The Popular Committee of the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison told the Arab ambassadors that the committee was eager to inform them of the Jamahiriyah's position on this subject, and the fact that the Jordanian Government's decision was unilateral and thus bears responsibility for it.

Libyan Students Take Over Embassy in Athens

LD231150 Tripoli JANA in English 0904 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Athens, Jumada al Ulla 19, Feb 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — To fulfill the needs of the masses, and to strengthen the cordial relations between the nations as a true and permanent relationship, and to promote the revolutionary work, the revolutionary students force in Greece yesterday took over the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Athens and formed a provisional committee for revolutionary administration.

SFRY's Planinc, Delegation Conclude Brief Visit

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Visitor

LD231201 Tripoli JANA in English 1002 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al Ulla 19, Feb. 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution yesterday evening received Milka Planinc, the president of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia. The meeting was also attended by the delegation accompanying Milka Planinc.

The president of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia is on a working and friendly visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, in a framework of bolstering further the existing cooperation relations between two friendly peoples, the basis of which was established by the leader of the revolution and the late President Josip Broz Tito.

Visitors Depart Tripoli

LD231955 Tripoli JANA in English 1856 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al Ulla 19, Feb 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Milka Planinc, president of the Federal Executive Council in socialist Yugoslavia, and her accompanying delegation, left Tripoli yesterday evening.

Muhammad az-Zarruq Rajab, secretary of the General People's Committee, saw Milka Planinc and her accompanying delegation off. A number of the General People's Committee members and the Yugoslavian ambassador in Jamahiriyah were also present in bidding farewell.

Milka Planinc, in a statement to a JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY reporter praised the results attained by her visit to the Jamahiriyah. She said that this meeting was the continuation of a series of meetings whose basis was established by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and the late Yugoslav leader Josef Tito. She added that the new agreements reached by both sides are in support of the interests of both friendly peoples.

Milka Planinc, at the end of her statement, said that she was

honored to meet Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi — to whom she passed on the regards of the Yugoslav presidency — and with him exchanged views about a number of current issues in the world.

JANA: U.S. Military Experts Sent to Sudan

LD231157 Tripoli JANA in English 0848 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Washington, Jumada al Ulla 19, Feb 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The U.S. war department, the Pentagon, recently sent a number of military experts who specialize in counter-guerrilla warfare to Khartoum to train the army of the Sudanese regime on methods of supressing social uprisings.

Diplomatic sources in Washington revealed that the group was given fraud names [as received]. The group size is expected to grow bigger, the sources added.

Brigadier Jabir Receives Palestinian Leaders

LD231625 Tripoli JANA in English 1421 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Tripoli, Jumada al Ulla 19, Feb. 23, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — Brigadier Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, received Qadri, member of the provisional leadership of the new revolutionary movement in Fatah; Umar ash-Shahabi, member of the Political Bureau of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command; 'Abd al-'Aziz as-Sayyid, deputy head of the foreign relations committee in [word indistinct] movement; and Abu Khadr, representative of the Fatah movement in the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

MAURITANIA

Joint Meeting With French Opens in Paris

AB231847 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The deliberations of the French-Mauritanian Joint Commission began this morning in Paris, presided over by the leaders of the two delegations, Major Ahmed Ould Minnih, Mauritanian minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and Mr Claude Cheysson, the French minister of external relations.

It should be noted that the French and Mauritanian experts who met yesterday in Paris to prepare the current session of the commission touched on a number of questions relating to cooperation between the two countries, especially in the scientific field.

Fisheries Minister Receives Soviet Ambassador

AB231846 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Captain Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, minister of fisheries and maritime economy, this morning received in audience the Soviet ambassador to Nouakchott.

During the audience, the two officials reviewed the state of cooperation between the two countries in the field of fishery and the ways and means to strengthen it further.

MOROCCO

Official Condemns Foreign Propaganda Campaign

LD232207 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Rabat, 23 Feb (MAP) — Mr Maati Bouabid, president of the Moroccan Constitutional Union Party, condemned the poisonous campaign directed against Morocco from abroad.

Mr Bouabid, a minister of state in the Moroccan cabinet, pointed out in a meeting with the cadres of his party in the cities of Oujda and Fkih in northeastern Morocco that Morocco, with its geographic location and its human and natural wealth and democratic options, makes some circles [word indistinct] feel jealous and fills them with malice. They want to damage its dignity and distort its image, so they do not hesitate to pick a time they think is appropriate — such as the Islamic Conference summit — to spread some absolutely false rumors, using children who cannot understand such matters.

Mr Maati Bouabid also talked about a propaganda program which was recently broadcast on Algerian radio, and which is aimed at poisoning ideas. He pointed out that the Moroccan people do not need any guardians. He stressed that Morocco, in spite of its economic difficulties, is in a good position compared to some of the Third World countries.

Commander of U.S. 6th Fleet Pays Visit

LD221454 Rabat MAP in English 1202 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Rabat, Feb 22 (MAP) — Admiral William Small, commander of the U.S. Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, of the U.S. naval forces in Europe and of the southern allied forces, arrived here Tuesday for a two-day courtesy visit to Morocco. In the afternoon, he visited the Mohammed V mausoleum, where he laid a wreath on the tomb of the late monarch, the father of King Hassan II.

Admiral Small, who will visit the town of Marrakech this Wednesday before heading for Europe, will also pay a courtesy call on General Driss Benaissa, general inspector of the Royal Armed Forces.

Prime Minister Chairs Meetings on Economy

LD231617 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Internal and external factors affecting the Moroccan economy were the main topics of discussion at two meetings yesterday evening chaired by Prime Minister Mohamed Karim Lamrani in Casablanca.

The meetings were attended by 11 cabinet ministers, the chairman of the Moroccan Economic Federation, the chairman

of the Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the chairman of the Association of Chambers of Traditional Crafts, and several officials responsible for production sectors in our country. The meetings were held within the framework of open dialogue between the government and the production sectors in accordance with the royal wishes of his majesty the king. This was affirmed by the prime minister in his statement.

He said consultation and dialogue between the public authorities and the private sector is continuing all the time. He called on the conferees to safeguard and maintain this in a spirit of frankness which he said is essential for bolstering the gains already made. It was noted that the present economic situation is affected by the drought, and that it is necessary to define priorities and give a new push to the policy of employment and the finding of sources for hard currency.

Lamrani discussed the same points with representatives from the most important trade unons: the General Moroccan Federation of Labor, the Democratic Federation of Labor, and the General Federation of Moroccan Workers. Addressing them, Lamrani affirmed the need to mobilize all capabilities to face up to the challenges presented by the economic challenge.

In conclusion, it was decided that the trade unions will submit a special memorandum on their ideas on the current economic and social conditions and the measures they propose for enhancing work.

Yesterday evening in greater Casablanca Province, Lamrani chaired a meeting which was attended by members of the National Federation of Road Transport. The meeting discussed the problems facing owners of transportation facilities. It was decided to postpone the increase in insurance premiums until the end of March. The ministers of finance and transport were entrusted with the task of discussing the problems facing this vital sector with representatives of the said federation. The ministers of transport and of energy and minerals, as well as the governor of greater Casablanca also attended the meeting.

King Hassan Appoints New Religion Minister

LD231628 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II has appointed Abdelkebir El Alawi El (Midaghri) minister of religious endowments and Islamic affairs, in place of Hachemi Filali, whom the king appointed adviser to the royal court.

SUDAN

Vice President at-Tayyib on Foreign Threat

GF210854 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 19 Feb 84 p 19

[Interview with Major General 'Umar Muhammad at-Tayyib, first vice president, in his office at the People's Palace in Khartoum — date not given]

[Excerpt] *AL-ANBA'*: Were the incidents which took place recently in southern Sudan an uprising, as reported by the Western press and news agencies? What is your comment about the validity of the rumors about these incidents, such as: an attempt to topple the ruling regime in the country; an attempt to form a separatist government; an attempt to destroy the national unity agreement; or an attempt to end Sudan's efforts in petroleum exploration?

Major General at-Tayyib: The fact is that Sudan — like other Third World countries, particularly the developing countries — is the target of foreign superpowers in their bid to complete their siege of some African and Arab countries. With its strategic position, Sudan represents an archway to other African countries.

Indications show that Libyan-Ethiopian interference is being manipulated behind-the-scenes by the Soviet Union, which encourages and supports those two countries in inciting riots and undermining stability, not only in the southern part but also in the northern part of the country. This matter was confirmed by what has been uncovered by us; that is, the so-called revolutionary committees, the members of which were recently captured or voluntarily gave themselves up and made complete confessions about the plans drawn for them to carry out sabotage operations in vital and strategic installations. After all their attempts failed in the northern part of the country, the plotters directed their efforts in the south, since they regarded it as the weak point in our national security. Their aims were:

— Undermining national unity by bringing about the end of the unity agreement;
— Halting the work in the comprehensive development projects;
— Ending Islamic patronage and work according to Islamic law;
— Training the elements which have split from Anyanya, following the 1971 Addis Ababa agreement which granted the south autonomy within the framework of a unified Sudan, and those elements which took part in the riots in Bor, and gangs which carried out armed robberies.

All those and other weak-minded people were being trained at camps in Ethiopia and financed by Libya. Later, many incidents took place, such as riots, the kidnapping of hostages, and finally an armed attack on some posts on the Sudanese-Ethiopian borders in Malwal and Nasir, with arms which exceed the capability of those elements, as well as the country which trains them. In this regard, all I can do is praise the courage and alertness of our people's armed forces in confronting and defeating the treacherous attack and pursuing the remnant elements who fled, leaving behind some of their arms and ammunition.

We in Sudan always safeguard the rights of the neighborhood. Our declared foreign policy is noninterference in the domestic affairs of the countries around us, but Ethiopia does not respect this and there are still camps in Ethiopia — some 10 training camps in the border regions and in Jamila and other regions — and the activities of these camps are well known to us.

Sudan continues its contacts with Ethiopia through diplomatic channels and hopes that these hostile practices will stop. Although we have good and sincere intentions, at the same time

we warn those who play with the fire and their supporters that we are capable of retaliating, deterring, and saving the homeland from ambitions and riots.

I can assure the brethren and friends, as well as the enemies, that the situation is calm in the southern part, particularly the districts of Bahr al-Ghazal and Al-Istiwa'iyah, and that the development projects in these two districts are continuing as planned. Regarding petroleum exploration and the Jonglei Canal project, half of the exploration activities of the Chevron Oil Company have resumed in the northern part, while the work in the southern part has been halted in the area between the Al-Wahdah field and Rabuna, because of the recent incidents in the area. These incidents and the ensuing losses in lives and property would not have occurred if the company had not refused protection. The attackers of the Rabuna camp used the lack of protection to launch an armed attack on the camp.

During my meeting with the director of the Chevron Company, I made it clear that protection has become necessary whether the company wanted it or not. Actually, we were able to lay down a security plan to protect the exploratory regions and all the development projects, and God willing, the work will begin again in the next 2 days. No doubt that if God wills these development projects will achieve abundant gains for the people of both southern and northern Sudan.

Despite the sabotage operations and the incidents which might happen again here or there, I affirm that we are working in accordance with a strategy which gives priority to security, followed by peace. The peace aspect of the strategy is to achieve three goals, that is: unity, peace and love. Regarding security, the concerned authorities, foremost of which are our people's armed forces, are adopting measures which are capable of safeguarding the security in the exploration areas and other projects.

Thank God, I can assure you that we are able to handle all man-made crises, thanks to the cohesion of our domestic front and national unity, and regardless of the amount of the crises we can powerfully confront all the foreign threats, no matter how well concealed they are, by relying only on God.

TUNISIA

Foreign Minister Essebsi on Afro-Arab Dialogue

LD231504 Rabat MAP in English 1210 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis, Feb (INA-MAP) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Beji Caid Essebsi has called for concentration of efforts to reactivate the Afro-Arab dialogue.

"Israel is exerting strenuous efforts to regain its lost place in Africa," the foreign minister warned, urging the Arab states to counter the Zionist campaign.

In an interview with the KUWAITI NEWS AGENCY, Essebsi said the Arab League should "take giant strides to reactivate the Afro-Arab dialogue and boost it to achieve factual solidarity between the Arab and African states." The Tunisian minister said although the Arab states had succeeded in curtailing the Israeli infiltration into Africa and minimizing its influence there, "We should not ignore the fact that Israel is making a comeback on the continent with the aid of some of the big powers on the one hand, and the deplorable economic situation in most of these states".

Asked whether his country, which hosts the Arab League Secretariat, was satisfied with the Arab states efforts to counter the Israeli infiltration into Africa, the Tunisian minister said he believed "there is a great shortcoming in this field". "Tunisia has always been eager to express practical solidarity with the African states and people in spite of its meager material potential," Essebsi said.

National Strike Threatened by Bank Union

Bank Employees Plan Strike

LD231531 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis, 23 February — The Executive Committee of the General Federation of Financial Establishments Trade Union announced today that the officials of banks and insurance companies in Tunisia will declare a 24-hour strike on Tuesday to protest the expulsion of two members of the Tunisian Syndicate for Agricultural Cooperative Security.

In a statement it issued in this respect, the federation declared its adherence to the unity of the Tunisian General Federation of Labor (UGTT), which is headed by Habib Achour, and its opposition to the newly formed labour union set up by seven dissenters from UGTT.

Warned Against Walkout

LD240022 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The professional banking federation has learned through a simple communique titled "Strike Declaration" that a general strike in the banking sector will be held 28 February 1984, throughout the republic. The federation draws the attention of the banks' employees to the following:

1. At the moment there is no dispute between the professional federation and the federation of bank unions;

2. The labor law regards any strike that does not stem from a dispute as illegal, and hence subject to termination of employment;

3. In addition to this, such a strike will harm the atmosphere of confidence and mutual respect that currently governs the relations between the social sides of this sector.

So, as the federation has full confidence in the patriotic feelings of the employees, it calls on all the employees of the banks to be responsible and to shoulder their responsibilities in the normal way within the framework of respecting the law, in order to preserve the spirit of understanding and harmony that prevails in the sector.

Textile Workers Cancel Planned 1-Day Strike
LD240015 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Since 21 February, the central reconciliation committee has held several meetings at the Ministry of Social Affairs which were attended by the National Textile Federation, which belongs to the General Union of Workers of Tunisia, and by the Tunisian Union for Industry and Commerce.

During its meeting yesterday [23 Feb], the committee achieved agreement between the sides, according to which the strike that was planned for today, 24 February, in the textiles sector in the governorates of Tunis, Aryanah and Ben Arus has been cancelled.

Postal Union Urges Employees Return to Work
LD240041 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The national postal federation issued the following call:

The national postal union, in order to preserve the higher interest of the country, and feeling the responsibility on its shoulders in defending the requests and work of the postal workers, calls on all the postal workers to return to their centers of work.

It would like them to feel confident that their return will contribute to overcoming the crisis. At the same time, this will not violate the resolutions of the union and its substructure. This will enable the federation to do everything possible to avoid escalating the situation more than necessary, and to overcome the effects of the strike.

The federation appeals to postal workers to ignore biased rumors and the conspiracies mainly aimed at (?desecrating) the legitimate demands of the postal workers and misguiding them, which are issued by irresponsible people. The federation announces that all the measures have been coordinated with the brother chairman of the union [words indistinct] and the legitimate demands.

[Signed] The Secretary General

Prime Minister Reviews Nation's Achievements
LD211027 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba will personally preside over the celebrations at Kasr Hilal marking the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Tunisan Socialist Destourian Party. The celebrations began more than one-and-one-half months ago and continue in the regions and the capital. They immortalize the great achievements of Bourguiba's party for the good of the people in the social and economic fields, in addition to winning the battle for liberation.

Yesterday, Mohamed Mzali, prime minister of the interior, reviewed the various achievements of the Bourguiba regime resulting from the political system enjoyed by independent Tunisia, which provides a distinguishing quality for a Third World country such as Tunisia.

Addressing representatives of about 30 U.S. companies that came to discuss economic projects here, Mzali said the Bourguiba regime is deep-rooted and stable because it stems from the people, and is capable of controlling problems resulting from development. It is also capable of making the necessary decisions to ensure an economic balance, even if such decisions fail sometimes to meet with acceptance. He said: We see this trust as a source of pride, particularly in the current difficult times through which the world is passing, when some countries are unable to meet their needs. Thanks to its hard, consistent work, he said, Tunisia has succeeded in developing its resources and has achieved an honorable degree of growth as demonstrated by its competent international institutions.

However, Tunisia is still in need of some help from the international organizations, as well as from friendly countries. He recalled that at the time of its independence, Tunisia had about 500,000 unemployed out of a population of 4 million people, and it inherited wide class differences, which the Bourguiba regime worked hard to eliminate, despite limited resources.

He pointed out that the problem of unemployment and related problems have not occurred only recently. Indeed, they have always been one of the government's principal concerns, as can be seen from the 6th development plan, the achievements made, and speeches by officials at public rallies. He said the government is in the process of creating about 43,000 jobs a year, particularly in the less fortunate areas, by encouraging the building of factories and the improvement of agriculture in order to halt emigration from rural to urban areas, and to create counter-emigration.

In conclusion, he expressed pleasure at the concern which Tunisia's friends constantly show for its social and economic policy, one which is based on moderation — both internally and externally — and on dialogue that is free of confusion, with freedom of thought and expression coupled with the necessary discipline vital for progress. He said: This is the great gain our country has achieved. It is a gain that would not have been achieved had it not been for the personality of our president, the stability of our political leadership and the maturity of our Tunisian people. He added: We hope to safeguard our gains and continue progress in a way which will help us win the trust of our brothers, friends and those who deal with us.

'Islamic Tendency' Group Calls for National Charter
LD231443 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1422 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Tunis, 23 Feb (KUNA) — The Islamic Tendency Movement in Tunisia has called for a "national charter for political action" with the participation of all parties, through constructive dialogue supported by the people to which all political parties will adhere and try to materialize, regardless of their political and ideological beliefs."

In a statement published here today, the movement said that such

"a national charter can save the country from the political, economic and social impasse it finds itself in." The movement expressed its "readiness to contribute effectively to the success of responsible civilized action for the good of our people and for future generations."

The statement added that "the declaration of a general amnesty will greatly help such an action to succeed."

ETHIOPIA

Mengistu Receives Polisario Minister With Message

EA232228 Addis Ababa in English to Neighboring Countries 1530 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Comrade Mengistu Haile Mariam today received a message from the Polisario Front leader, Comrade Mohamed Abdelaziz. The message was delivered to the Provisional Military Administrative Council chairman by Polisario Foreign Minister Comrade Ibrahim Hakim. Comrade Mengistu discussed with Comrade Ibrahim Hakim matters pertaining to the prevailing situation in the Western Sahara and the forthcoming regular OAU ministerial session in Addis Ababa.

Not To Attend OAU Session

AB240742 Paris AFP in English 0729 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, Feb 24 (AFP) — The Polisario-proclaimed government in Western Sahara will not take part in the Organization of African Unity Council of Ministers session opening here on Monday, its Foreign Minister Ibrahim Hakim announced here today.

The move, seen here as virtually assuring the success of the ministerial conference, was yet another demonstration of the Saharan Arab Democratic Republic's cooperation with the OAU, Mr Hakim told a news conference.

The announcement came a day after Mr Hakim delivered a message here to Ethiopian head of state Mengistu Haile Mariam, the current OAU chairman, from Polisario leader Mohammed Abdul Aziz.

The foreign minister said however that the SDAR, which was admitted as the 51st OAU member state at a controversial council session here two years ago, would occupy its seat at the 20th OAU summit planned for Conakry, Guinea, later this year.

The SDAR admission has been contested by Morocco, fighting the Polisario guerilla front for control of Western Sahara, and its supporters, ever since.

The first attempt to convene the 19th OAU summit with the SDAR as a full-fledged member in Tripoli in August 1982 collapsed because Rabat and its backers boycotted the meeting, thereby depriving it of a quorum. The 19th summit only met here in June last year because the Saharan state agreed to "voluntarily and temporarily" suspend its participation.

Mr Hakim said today that the SDAR's decision to withdraw again was "a gesture of good will toward our continent. It is now up to each one to assume its responsibility," he said, in an apparent reference to Morocco which has refused direct negotiations with the SDAR aimed at a cease-fire and a self-determination referendum as called for by the OAU.

Mr Hakim also spoke of an escalation in the desert war, which he said had intensified since December and involved between 40,000 to 45,000 Moroccan troops. He warned that the escalation, for which he blamed the support for Rabat of one unnamed West European power and U.S. President Ronald Reagan, could affect the entire region. President Reagan had delivered fragmentation bombs outlawed by international conventions to the Moroccans, he charged.

Mr Hakim said he would stay in the Ethiopian capital in an informal capacity during the forthcoming OAU session.

Further Reportage on Visit of Algeria's Ibrahimi

Various Contacts Noted

LD221133 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Addis Ababa, 21/2/84 (APS) — Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, who started an official visit to Ethiopia on Sunday, held talks yesterday with Finance Minister Tesfaye Dinka and Commerce Minister [title as received] Wollie Chekol.

In the reception given in his honour by his counterpart Goshu Wolde, Mr Taleb outlined the different factors of rapprochement between the two countries and emphasized on Ethiopia's role for the preservation of peace. He said Algeria follows with great interest those efforts aimed at safeguarding peace and stability in the region, because we work for the promotion of a policy of good neighbourliness based on respect of unity, integrity, and stability of each state. In this context, he stressed that Algeria has achieved agreements with most of his neighbours definitively settling that way borders problems. He reaffirmed that this attitude shows its attachment to the profound aspirations of the peoples and the ideals of our organisation.

The foreign minister evoked also the current difficult period of the OAU due, he said, to foreign interferences and also to African complaisances and connivances. He praised sacrifices of those who took up the challenge and allowed the success of the 19th summit. He reaffirmed that both Algeria and Ethiopia have the same concerns on problems of Chad, Western Sahara, and Austral Africa, and call for the same solutions. On this matter and on all other topics, the foreign minister appealed for dialogue to replace confrontation and expressed his wish to further consultations between African countries.

Referring to South-South cooperation, he said it is only the context capable of "conferring quality of full partners in our relations with northern countries". [sentence as received]

Visit Ends, Departs

LD221332 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Dr Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs, left Addis Ababa this morning at the conclusion of a 3-day official visit to Ethiopia during which he was received by Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam to whom he conveyed a message from President Chadli Bendjedid. He held a series of talks with his counterpart, Goshu Wolde, which were crowned with the signing of a protocol agreement on

establishing a joint committee for cooperation between the two countries.

Eritrean Forces Report Battle Successes

EA231755 (Clandestine) Voice of the Broad Masses of Eritrea in Tigrinya 0430 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] North-Eastern Sahel Front: The heroic Eritrean People's Liberation Front [EPLF] forces yesterday, 22 February 1984, attacked, defeated, and severely punished the enemy forces. Commencing their attack at 0100 and continuing throughout the day, our people's force forced the Ethiopian regime's troops to abandon their stronghold, suffering heavy casualties in men and material. The enemy forces burned their ammunition and ration stores at (Mai Minet) and Marsa Teklai. In their victorious attack, the heroic EPLF forces killed and wounded 1,500 enemy soldiers, destroying 10 tanks and burning material worth millions of Birr before returning to base.

TANZANIA

Foreign Minister Receives Cuban Deputy Minister

EA232218 Dar es Salaam External Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Dar es Salaam: Tanzania and Cuba have called for immediate implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 435 on Namibian independence. The appeal was made today during discussions between the foreign minister, Ndugu Salim Ahmad Salim, and the visiting Cuban deputy minister for foreign affairs, Ndugu Oscar Oramus. The discussions focused on the latest developments in southern Africa with reference to the Namibian question. Ndugu Oramus also briefed Ndugu Salim on recent developments in Central America.

The Cuban deputy minister arrived in Dar es Salaam last night for a 4-day official visit to Tanzania.

CAPE VERDE

Reportage on President Pereira's Portugal Visit

For Lisbon reportage on Cape Verdian President Pereira's 7-day private visit to Portugal, including his meeting with Portuguese Prime Minister Mario Soares and his luncheon with President Ramalho Eanes, see the Portugal section of the 24 February Western Europe *DAILY REPORT* and subsequent issues.

GHANA

Death Toll Reaches 103 in Meningitis Outbreak

AB200723 Accra Domestic Service in English 0600 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Text] The death toll in the outbreak of cerebral-spinal meningitis in the Upper East has reached 103. According to our correspondent, figures released by the office of the regional medical officer show that Bolgatanga Hospital has recorded 75 dead, Bawku Hospital 20, and Navrongo Hospital 8.

At present, 33 people are on admission at Bolgatanga Hospital, and 10 at the Sandime Health Center, while Bawku Hospital has recorded 318 cases since the outbreak of the disease.

The most affected areas are Frafra and Kassena-Nankani Districts. To help check the spread of the disease, isolation camps have been set up at Navrongo, Paga, and Sebiboe.

GUINEA

French Envoy Says Mitterrand To Visit

AB231225 Conakry Domestic Service in French 0645 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] President Ahmed Sekou Toure, the supreme leader of the revolution, yesterday visited Faranah and Labe in the company of a French Government delegation now on a working visit to our country. The head of state was also accompanied by an official party delegation. The French Government delegation was led by Guy Penne, President Francois Mitterrand's personal adviser for African affairs.

Addressing a gathering of party militants in Faranah, Guy Penne said:

[Begin recording] Mr President, Mr Prime Minister, Ministers, Mr Governor, Your Excellencies, militants, ladies and gentlemen: I am here on a mission from French President Francois Mitterrand, who is an old friend of your president. [applause] I am here with a friendly message which I found easy to transmit because I know and am proud of your president's feelings toward me. [applause] I did not know that on the occasion of this visit I would have the pleasure of being received in President Sekou Toure's home village. [applause] This is a great honor and pleasure for me and those accompanying me. I thank all of you for this reception.

I think that in 1984 — I hope your president will not be annoyed with me for telling you a secret — the president of the Republic of France, Francois Mitterrand, will visit Guinea. [long applause]

The French president's brotherly message, which I have delivered was one aspect; the other aspect was my discussions with your president to ascertain his opinion regarding some major problems of great concern to the world in general and Africa in particular. President Sekou Toure's opinions will be received with great interest by the French president. [applause]

As you know, France is historically present in Africa and sometimes has difficult commitments in certain African countries. We must affirm that if the French Army is now back in Chad, it is not through imperialism or because it likes adventures, but it was at the request of a friendly government. And we want to find out President Sekou Toure's true opinion on this. [end recording]

Listen to Comrade President Ahmed Sekou Toure, the supreme servant of our people, speaking at Labe:

[Begin recording] Comrades of Labe, I only want to congratulate you on behalf of the national leadership of the Guinean Democratic Party [PDG] for the magnificent demonstration of your support for the Guinean revolution and the perfect success of the welcoming ceremonies that portrayed what the revolution constantly demands from its militants — enthusiasm and order. [appaluse] Comrades of Labe, you will soon have the honor of listening to the message which Guy Penne will transmit to you in the name of the president of the Republic of France, Francois Mitterrand, and in the name of the glorious French people. [applause]

But since your federal secretary and leading political representative has just referred to the anti-Guineans, I consider it my duty to stress the relevance of his words. It is true that the recent session of the PDG Central Committee listened to the statements — which were very significant — of the mercenaries now in the hands of the Guinean people's revolution. [applause] The Central Committee has made every arrangement to receive those who would like to go down into the grave of imperialism still existing in Guinea. [long applause]

We have said that we fear only God and the people because we are in the service of the people whose interests we cannot betray. Those who deliberately put themselves in the service of imperialism and civil causes will find us always ready to receive them and crush them as they deserve as traitors to their motherland. [applause] They are people who have sold themselves; they accepted money to betray Africa and Guinea. They are mercenaries writing in *JEUNE AFRIQUE*; they are mercenaries with pistols and improved weapons who were trained in certain areas of Africa known to us and who plan to disturb peace and security in Guinea. We have already affirmed and again affirm that Guinea depends only on the will of God and its people. [applause] No one, no power whatsoever, can now harm Guinea, which is fully cognizant of its historic responsibilities, and is determined to assume them with honor. [long applause] In the name of the Guinean people's revolution, it is necessary that this should be forcefully said in Labe because some of the mercenaries continue to claim that they are from Labe which they have

betrayed by betraying the Guinean people and Guinean revolution.

IVORY COAST

Head of State Chairs Meeting, Meets New Envoys

AB240928 Abidjan Domestic Service in French 1930 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The Political Bureau met for more than an hour and a half this morning. The meeting was convened by the head of state and party chairman, and was attended by members of the government. Before the meeting, President Houphouet-Boigny received the letters of credence of four new ambassadors accredited to our country; henceforth the diplomatic corps of the Ivory Coast has a new member, the first ambassador of the People's Republic of China, His Excellency Zhu Chengcai.

In the letter of credence he presented this morning to the head of state, the Chinese ambassador emphasized that his country and the Ivory Coast, which are both developing countries, have similar past and face the same tasks: development of their national economies, raising their peoples' living standards, and maintaining world peace.

In his reply, the head of state expressed satisfaction with the concrete manifestation of the common desire of both countries to open up to the world and engage in peaceful cooperation. We cannot ignore the actions of cooperation carried out by your country in Africa, the head of state said. The president of the Republic said the rural sector could be one of the first sectors to be explored with a view of developing cooperation between the Ivory Coast and China, as the Chinese farmer is known as one of the best in the universe for having mastered new techniques, and not by copying foreign methods, but by combining the old and new.

Three other ambassadors also presented their letters of credence this morning to the head of state as well as the letters of recall of their predecessors. They are Colonel Daniel Prah of Ghana; Mr Frederic Assomption Korsaga of Upper Volta; and Mr Bell John Peter of Canada.

LIBERIA

PRC Recessed, Cabinet Reshuffle Announced

AB231150 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 0655 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The People's Redemption Council [PRC] has been recessed to give its members the opportunity to prepare themselves for retirement. According to an Executive Mansion release issued in Monrovia yesterday, only the Executive Committee of the Council is to remain operational until further notice. Members of the Executive Committee of the PRC include the head of state, vice head of state, deputy vice head of state, the speaker, and the secretary general.

Meanwhile, two council members who were suspended recently for time indefinite have been reinstated. They are Colonel Larry Borteh and Major Joseph V. Tubman.

Yesterday's release also announced a reshuffle within the Cabinet. Dr J.B. Blamoe is now the new minister of state for presidential affairs, replacing Major General John Rancy, who goes to labor as its new minister. Former Labor Minister Major E. Sumo Jones takes over the National Ports Authority as its new managing director, while his deputy, Captain (Harray Tah), has been replaced by the former superintendent of Bong County, A.M. (Kessiah). Captain (Tah) is slotted for new assignment according to the release.

The head of state said the appointment of Maj E. Sumo Jones at the National Port Authority is based on his concern for an effective collection of revenue and the strengthening of law and order at the Free Port of Monrovia and other ports around the country.

Coupist's Links With USSR Embassy Revealed

AB232053 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1900 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Phase two of the alleged coup-plot trial began in Monrovia yesterday with yet another new name emerging. The new name, former General Services Agency [GSA] Director Charles Taylor, was disclosed by a witness in the trial, Mr Mohamed Wontigui, while testifying yesterday at the tribunal. Mr Wontigui told the tribunal that former GSA Director General Charles Taylor offered $1,000 to sabotage the People's Redemption Council's [PRC] operations. Mr Mohamed Wontigui, the first state witness, said he was informed by Major Moses Duopo that Charles Taylor offered $1,000 to be given to Captain Johnny Herring, one of the accused, to recruit brave armed personnel for what he termed as to sabotage the PRC government.

He further stated that he was sent by the former Commanding General Thomas Quiwonkpa to the Soviet Embassy near Monrovia to inquire from the Soviet ambassador what action he, Quiwonkpa, was to take against the PRC government. He said when he arrived at the Soviet Embassy, the ambassador refused him audience. He held talks with the deputy head of mission at the Soviet Embassy who told him that the Soviet envoy had described the matter as an internal affair.

NIGERIA

Further Reportage on Visit of Libya's Jallud

Joint Communique Issued

AB231715 Paris AFP in French 1225 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, 23 Feb (AFP) — Nigeria and Libya have called for the noninterference of foreign powers in Chad's internal affairs at the conclusion of Libyan Prime Minister Major Jallud's 2-day visit to Nigeria.

"Any force supporting a Chadian faction against another is a belligerent force," Maj Jallud declared during a press conference he held Thursday morning in Lagos shortly before leaving for Tripoli. Thus it appears to observers that the Nigerian point of view prevailed during the bilateral discussions. In fact, it was believed that Libya intended to only condemn the "extra-African" forces involved in Chad. France would then have been specifically mentioned.

The joint communique published at the end of the visit mentioned the responsibility of both countries in the search for political stability in Chad, called for the noninterference of foreign powers in that country's internal affairs, and stated that national reconciliation talks under the auspices of the OAU constitute the most appropriate way to achieve peace and stability as none of the factions have the right to form a government alone.

During his press conference, Maj Jallud called for the withdrawal of the foreign forces and hoped for an end to foreign influences. Maj Jallud also denied the reports published Wednesday by the Nigerian press regarding a recent arrest in Lagos of more than 100 Libyans, Ghanaians, and Beninese. According to the press, which cited Nigerian security agencies, there was a question of a vast recruitment of mercenaries to fight in Chad. Maj Jallud was of the opinion that these reports were put out by "antagonistic forces seeking to weaken the good relations between Libya and Nigeria."

The Libyan "second in command" described the new Nigerian Government as "nationalist" and expressed Libya's support for it. He particularly declared that Libya would do its utmost to help the Lagos authorities overcome their economic problems, and especially within the OPEC.

It may be recalled that Nigeria had asked that organization for an upward revision of its production quota now fixed at 1.3 million barrels per day.

Maj Jallud also announced the creation of joint commissions in the fields of foreign affairs and oil to strengthen cooperation between both countries. The first meeting will be held in Tripoli in April 1984, the communique indicated. The establishment of a joint Nigerian-Libyan bank was also agreed upon.

Maj Jallud invited his Nigerian counterpart, General Tunde Idiagbon, chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, to visit Libya. The invitation has been accepted, the Libyan prime minister revealed.

Further on Communique

AB231808 Lagos NAN in English 1736 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpt] Lagos, Feb 23 (NAN) — Nigeria and Libya, today in Lagos, agreed to establish a joint bank and a joint holding company. This was contained in a communique signed at the end of bilateral talks between the visiting Libyan prime minister, Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud and the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brig Tunde Idiagbon. Both countries called for the full implementation of the agreement on economic, scientific, technical, trade, and cultural cooperation signed between the two countries in April. The meeting also ratified the setting up of a joint commission of ministers of external affairs, petroleum, and planning, and agreed that its first meeting would be held in Tripoli in April this year.

On the demand of developing countries for a new international economic order, both countries called for total restructuring of the existing international financial arrangement to take into account the current realities in the Third World countries.

Both countries pledged their loyalty to OPEC and to the organisation's pricing and production policies.

On global economic recession, the two countries expressed deep concern at the continued impoverishment of the Third World countries, and agreed that strong economic cooperation among them within the context of the North-South dialogue would be a positive step toward better economic well-being.

On Chad they also agreed that national reconciliation talks, under the auspices of the OAU, was the most appropriate way of achieving peace and stability in that country; on Western Sahara, both leaders implored the parties concerned to abide by the appropriate OAU and UN resolutions toward finding a peaceful settlement.

The two leaders also reaffirmed their support for the Palestinian people in their struggle for a lasting solution to the age-long Middle East conflict.

They condemned the obnoxious system of apartheid in South Africa, and rejected any linkage of Namibian independence with the withdrawal of Cuban troops in Angola.

Jallud Departs

AB232038 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The Libyan prime minister, Major 'Abd as-Salam Jallud, at the end of his 3-day official visit to Nigeria, was today seen off at the Murtala Muhammed International Airport by the chief of staff, Supreme Headquarters, Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon. Correspondent Tunde Oshungbomi who covered the visit, now reports on the departure.

[Begin Oshungbomi recording] The departure ceremony started at Etate House, Marina. This was in the form of a news conference by the Libyan premier. Questions on world issues were asked by journalists, to which answers were provided through an interpreter. Answering one of the questions, the Libyan premier said that his country with Nigeria [words indistinct]. He said that cooperation between the two countries was in the interest of their people. The news conference [words indistinct]. The communique was endorsed by the two leaders in an atmosphere of mutual trust, after which the two leaders rose from their seats and embraced one another, signifying that united we stand, divided we fall.

At the airport, the Libyan national anthem was played, followed by that of Nigeria, after which Maj Jallud inspected the guard of honor mounted by a detachment of the Brigade of Guards. There was also a 21-gun salute. [passage indistinct] [end recording]

Cheysson Arrives in Lagos, Meets With Buhari
AB241045 Paris AFP in English 1037 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Lagos, Feb 24 (AFP) — Visiting French Foreign Minister Claude Cheysson had talks today with the head of Nigeria's Military Government, General Muhammadu Buhari, who took power last New Year's Eve. A spokesman for Gen Buhari said the talks mainly covered the Chadian crisis, relations between France and Nigeria, and the rescheduling of Nigeria's foreign debt. Mr Cheysson, who arrived here last night for a two-day visit, was to meet his Nigerian counterpart Ibrahim Gambari later today and tomorrow.

Daily on Nigerian Role in Chadian Problem
AB231845 Lagos International Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Feb 84

[From the press review]

[Text] *THE NEW NIGERIAN*, in its editorial, offers some other suggestions that the Federal Military Government can critically examine in offering solutions to the Chadian crisis. First, the paper proposes that the Supreme Military Council should insist that the settlement should be preceded by an effective cease-fire to be followed by the withdrawal of all French and Libyan soldiers. Secondly, it says Nigeria should not accept both Libyan and French soldiers near its borders. Moreover, *THE NEW NIGERIAN* explains that if it is necessary to dispatch a pan-African peace force to Chad, it should be much more organized to serve.

Three Private Planes Impounded in Kano
AB162050 Lagos Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 16 Feb 84

[Text] Three private aircrats were yesterday impounded in Kano by officials of the Nigerian Airport Authority (NAA). This is in compliance with the Federal Government directives banning the operation of private aircrafts in the country. The public relations officer of the NAA in the state, Alhaji M.A. (Kibu), said one of the aircrafts was owned by Alidu (Bensa) while owners of the remaining two are yet to be identified.

SENEGAL

Angolan Official On Relations, ANC, SWAPO Support
AB231100 Dakar Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] Lucio Lara, political secretary of the MPLA-Labor Party in charge of propaganda, arrived in Dakar where he participated in the meeting of the Intergovernmental Council of PANA. He held a press conference this afternoon on political developments in southern Africa. Lucio Lara also talked about relations between Angola and Senegal.

[Begin Lara recording] [Words indistinct] what I can say is that it was a historic meeting between our presidents — the presidents of Senegal and Angola — a meeting which took place approximately 4 years ago. I think from that moment all doubts were cleared. Before that meeting, there was the feeling in Angola that Senegal was sympathetic with the UNITA movement which was fighting inside Angola. However, we had the assurance after that meeting that the Senegalese Government supported Angola in its fight against the racist forces of southern Africa including the small group calling itself UNITA. Thus, from that time forward, we have had the perception that Senegal offers us reliable support and understanding. This is what my president asked me to convey to his excellency, the president of Republic. [end recording]

The nonaggression pact concluded between Mozambique and South Africa does not in any way compromise Luanda's support for the ANC and SWAPO. Lucio Lara pointed this out in the press conference he gave this afternoon on political developments in southern Africa. Listen to what Mr Lara had to say on this subject:

[Begin recording] I am really surprised — explaining my reason for asking for a meeting with the representative of (?SWAPO) — that our African brothers have the notion that there is going to be some kind of abandonment. If you consider the fact that since our independence, we, the countries of southern Africa, have been very actively supporting — each according to its means and capability — our brothers in Namibia and South Africa, it is really surprising to us that at a given moment, through purely coincidental circumstances, the talks between Mozambique and South Africa to be followed by talks between Angola and South Africa, should be seen as the end of our support for our brothers struggling for their independence.

In fact, this is not the first time that we Angolans have had contacts with our South African and American enemies; Mozambique has had contacts with the United States and South Africa. These contacts were interrupted for some years. Current circumstances appear to show there has been some scheming or arrangements, but there has been no selling out.

As you are aware, we of the Frontline States meet from time to time to assess our positions and eventually help any member state find a solution to its problem, but these meetings are primarily meant to aid the liberation movements. Therefore, there has not been any abandoning of these movements.

I am not speaking for Mozambique, but I strongly doubt that it will give up its support. It is impossible! We have spent almost all our lives, our people's lives — I mean Angola and Mozambique — for the liberation of southern Africa, and we are not going to abandon it now. [words indistinct] [end recording]

UPPER VOLTA

Albanian Delegation Visits Bobo Dioulasso Area

AB232216 Ouagadougou Domestic Service in French 2000 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The Albanian delegation which arrived in our country a week ago is currently in Bobo Dioulasso, the capital of We Province. Roch Parfait Ouedraogo from Radio Bobo tells us about the delegation's visit to Bobo Dioulasso.

[Begin Ouedraogo recording] The delegation of the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, which arrived in Bobo Dioulasso this afternoon, is comprised of Comrade Fatos Nano, a scientific collaborator at the University of Tirana, and Comrade Bashkim Hoxha, a member of the Central Committee of the Albanian Youth Union. Accompanied by Comrade Dagarto Djena, the permanent under secretary to the minister of information, the delegation visited the headquarters of the Social Security Fund in Bobo Dioulasso. During a discussion with Comrade Sidiki Serimi, director of the Social Security Fund, Comrade Fatos Nano spoke about the purpose of their visit: It is to enable usto know each other better and strengthen the exisitng friendship and solidarity between our two peoples who have common ideals, he said.

Before touching on the issues of social security, Comrade Fatos Nano explained how the Albanian people fought for their independence. Albania has a long history of struggle against imperialism, and it was only after a long period of struggle that it was able to build a true democratic and popular regime around a single party. This afternoon's meeting at the Social Security Fund allowed the two sides to exchange ideas on how our two countries treat their workers in the area of social security. Following the exchange of ideas, Comrade Fatos Nano expressed his happiness over having been able to learn about the realities of our social security.

In conclusion, Comrade Fatos Nano wished the Upper Voltan revolution further successes, because to ensure the future of a whole society, an entire people, it is necessary to ensure the future of all its components.

Tomorrow, Friday, the Albanian delegation will visit the (Doukou) Valley rice fields and later visit Banfora in Kenedougou Province. [end recording]

ANGOLA

Foreign Minister Leaves for OAU Meeting

MB241055 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 0500 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Comrade Paulo Teixeira Jorge, Angolan foreign minister, left Luanda last night for Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he will participate in the OAU ordinary ministerial council from 27 February to 7 March.

A source close to the OAU General Secretariat in Luanda said the meeting will concentrate on adminstrative and budgetary matters as well as African political problems. Although the working agenda has not yet been published, the source says that the meeting will discuss the (?reforms) proposed by Peter Onu, the OAU acting secretary general, as well as the delay in paying up membership dues. Members states owe the organization more than $20 million in annual dues. This situation has been affecting the current OAU budget of $(?23.9) billion, which tends to reduce activity.

FAPLA Reports 135 'Bandits' Killed in 4 Areas

MB230731 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] An additional 135 counterrevolutionaries have been killed by the Peoples Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola [FAPLA] over the past few days during operations carried out in the Zaire, Bie, Benguela, and Cuando Cubango Provinces. Seventeen bandits were also captured.

In Cuando Cubango Province, the Angolan combatants annihilated 103 counterrevolutionaries in operations carried out in various areas. In the (Vicete) region, 25 bandits were put out of action when a unit of our army pursued a counterrevolutionary group, capturing 1 combatant and seizing 6 RPG-7's and 20 60-mm mortar rockets, 3 grenade launchers [dilagramas], 6 hand grenades, and 67 light weapons. Another Angolan unit, which was operating southeast of Longa, killed seven counterrevolutionaries and also captured large quantities of weapons, ammunition, rucksacks, documents, and substantial sums of money. The largest operation took place in the Cuito-Cuanavale region where 71 counterrevolutionaries were killed by FAPLA. Another eight counterrevolutionaries were captured and many arms and ammunition, documents, and rifle magazines of various calibers seized.

In Benguela Province, the Angolan Armed Forces killed 12 counterrevolutionaries and captured 2 others during an attack against a group of bandits attempting to establish themselves in the region of Balombo. In this operation Angolan forces also released 24 peasants who the puppets had abducted and were keeping under armed guard, and seized large quantities of arms and ammunition.

Further to the east, in Bie Province, another group of counterrevolutionaries was defeated by the Angolan combatants in the region of the Cusseque River, where a large unspecified number of bandits were killed. In the same province FAPLA released hundreds of citizens from the clutches of the puppets and captured various arms and military equipment.

FAPLA's vigorous action has also been felt in Zaire Province where Angolan combatants in Bessa Monteiro destroyed several groups of bandits seeking shelter in the bush. In Lufico, (Mponzo) and (Naqui) Municipality, our forces engaged another group and captured 6 counterrevolutionaries and 3 foreign nationals.

We recall that in Uige, in the (Capucu) forest, FAPLA has also been engaged in a relentless drive against counterrevolutionaries, having recently annihilated another 35 bandits. Our forces are currently engaged in destroying the enemy's logistical base.

UNITA Expresses Opposition to Angolan Cease-Fire

MB240914 Umtata Capital Radio in English 0600 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The rebel Angolan UNITA movement won't observe any cease-fire in the south of the country. UNITA announced this in an statement released in Lisbon. The statement says UNITA is not prepared to cooperate in the truce because it claims government troops have launched a fresh offensive against the movement. the offensive allegedly began earlier this week and involved tanks, fighter planes and helicopters.

UNITA Captures Foreigners, Including 16 Britons

AB241300 Paris AFP in English 1146 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Lisbon, Feb 24 (AFP) — The rebel Angolan UNITA movement said today it had captured 77 foreign aid workers in the eastern province of Luanda. The 77 were made up of 46 Portuguese, 16 Britons and 15 Filipinos, UNITA — the Union for the Total Independence of Angola — said in a communique issued here. The communique said the foreigners were captured in a UNITA attack on the village of Kafungo, which resulted in the destruction of 340 trucks of the state-run diamond company and the seizure of "a quantity of diamonds" about to be sent to Luanda, the Angolan capital. Fourteen government soldiers were alo taken prisoner, UNITA said.

The rebel movement, led by Jonas Savimbi, frequently captures foreigners helping the Angolan Government. They are usually released sooner or later, but UNITA is still holding a number of Czechoslovaks whose capture was followed by demands for the release of UNITA members and British mercenaries imprisoned in Luanda.

UNITA warned the Angolan Armed Forces, the Cubans based in Angola "and countries with an interest" in freeing the captives not to attempt any land or air intervention, which would have "very serious consequences" for the hostages. Only the unconditional release of the Portuguese prisoners could be guaranteed, UNITA said. It named four of the Britons as a geologist identified only as Neil, and three engineers — Dennis Clauson, Robin Kennedy and a third named only as Murphy.

Referring to a recent agreement between Luanda and Pretoria for the withdrawal of South African forces from southern Angola, UNITA said it supported the moves, but that it should be involved in the negotiations. Only an end to the civil war would lead to the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola, something both South Africa and the United States wanted, UNITA said.

UNITA Claims 'Major Offensive' by Cuban Troops

AB240620 Paris AFP in English 0410 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Lisbon, Feb 24 (AFP) — Cuban troops supported by armoured vehicles and Soviet MIG fighter planes and helicopters have launched a major offensive against UNITA (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) forces in eastern Angola, the armed opposition movement said here Thursday. UNITA said operations by government forces were under way in the whole of the east and aimed to re-occupy the Zambian border region, which it said the authorities in Luanda had not controlled for the past year.

Noting that the operations came while the MPLA government was negotiating the disengagement of "belligerent (South African) forces" from the south of the country, UNITA said that it could not however join in any ceasefire inside the country. "We hope that those who are negotiating the demilitarisation and detente with the MPLA understand our position. The survival of UNITA cannot be tied to localised pacifications accompanied by offensives in other regions," said the statement, which was signed by UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi.

The official Angolan news agency ANGOP, received here, meanwhile said government forces had killed 115 UNITA guerrillas in a total of four operations in Cuando Cubango Province in the south and in Benguela Province, and seized equipment, money and documents from the rebels.

UNITA Radio Criticizes Incompetence of MPLA

MB230956 (Clandestine) Voice of Resistance of the Black Cockerel in Portuguese to Angola 0430 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is not by chance that we have been reporting that our people presently living in Angola do so in the greatest misery and frustration of all time. We have spoken of several aspects which expose the Luanda minority regime's incompetent administration of the country. The Luanda regime's system for the distribution of material goods is unjust, because it entails several discriminatory categories in which foreigners and the great MPLA masters are the privileged caste and well-supplied with every commodity.

For the people, who the chieftains abusively purport to defend, there is nothing; and should there be anything, it is a starvation ration for which the people wait hours on end in long queues with a common rationing ticket in hand. Victims of the MPLA chieftains' incompetent and unjust distribution of essential goods, the Angolan people try to make due, as slang would have it, by creating a barter system to survive. Thus, the business circuits are very active with exchanges of goods among the people; and the incompetent government, which is first and foremost worried about serving the foreigners, has become altogether obsolete.

Where are we heading? What future have the MPLA chieftains reserved for us, with all this misery reigning over our country? This evil must be cut at the root. The minority and incompetent Luanda regime was brought to power by the Cubans and is maintained by them against the will of all of us, the Angolan people. The Cubans are the root of all the misery plaguing our people. It is within this context that UNITA combats the Cuban presence in Angola and appeals for an anti-Cuban patriotic front this year, 1984.

The struggle triumphs. United we shall win.

War Veterans Secretariat Receives SFRY Donation

MB231520 Luanda Domestic Service in Portuguese 1900 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Text] The State Secretariat for War Veterans this afternoon received another gift for our country's war veterans from the Federation of Veteran's Associations of Yugoslavia. This benevolent gesture from the SFRY war veterans includes 27 wheelchairs, 50 pairs of crutches, and 182 school briefcases. (Jorika Batich), the counsellor of the Yugoslav Embassy in Angola, presented the donation to Comrade Francisco Tuta, the head of the State Secretariat for War Veterans.

Last year, the Federation of Veteran's Associations of Yugoslavia also made a donation to the State Secretariat for War Veterans of 120 school desks, 4 writing desks, 4 blackboards, and a quantity of medicines for the establishment of a medical center.

BOTSWANA

BLP Leader Holds First Political Rally

MB231307 Gaborone Domestic Service in English 1125 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] In his first political rally since his party was registered, the leader of the Botswana Liberal Party [BPL], Mr Martin Chakalisa, has alleged that he will not join other opposition parties because these had no base and no financial standing. He was speaking at Selebi Phikwe recently. Mr Chakalisa also asserted that his party was formed because socioeconomic development had been stagnant throughout the years of independence in Botswana.

A reporter of the BOTSWANA PRESS AGENCY in Selebi Phikwe says Mr Chakalisa had to cancel one of his meetings in the Botshabelo residential area because only six people, some of them police officers, attended the rally. Mr Chakalisa told a small crowd which came to his meeting that his party would challenge anything said against welding of the people. Referring to the recent incidents along the Botswana-Zimbabwe border, Mr Chakaliso said it was not easy for any country to control what he called border crises. He said all that was needed was to request

the people living along the border to cooperate with the security personnel.

A few weeks ago, the minister of public service and information, Mr Daniel Kwelagobe, completed a tour of the border villages during which he cautioned people against illegal border crossings and further advised them to report the presence of strangers to the police or the Botswana Defense Force. Mr Kwelagobe had also assured the border residents of continued protection by the government from aggressive intruders.

LESOTHO

Jonathan Praises Current 'Peace Dialogue'

MB231749 Maseru Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Excerpts] The prime minister, the right honorable Dr Leabua Jonathan, said that the current peace dialogue between South Africa and the black southern African states, Angola and Mozambique, can be a welcome development if it is genuine and meaningful. Asked for his comment today, Dr Jonathan said that it was well-known that from the onset, his party and government had always believed in dialogue rather than force as a means of resolving differences.

Dr Jonathan also said that the current dialogue between South Africa and the black states would be a positive development if it would lead to the implementation of UN Resolution 435 and the realization of Namibia's independence. If the people of Namibia got their independence, there would be no need for them to take refuge in countries like Angola. Furthermore, the prime minister said the peace talks can be meaningful if they are not held only between South Africa and the black states of the region but also between the South African Government and the black people of South Africa, including their political organizations like the ANC. If the resolution of the black-white conflict in South Africa itself is realized, there will no longer be ANC refugees in Mozambique and other countries.

Dr Jonathan also said the peace talks can be meaningful if an end was reached to the restriction of free movement through South Africa of goods, such as Lesotho's internal security equipment which is lying in Maputo and some South African ports. This would show a constructive peace spirit, which appeared to be lacking at the moment.

MADAGASCAR

President on IMF Talks, African Developments

AB232200 Paris AFP in French 0854 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Paris, 23 Feb (AFP) — Mr Didier Ratsiraka, the president of the Republic of Madagascar said in Paris on Wednesday that there was "no break" between his country and the IMF whose representatives are currently in Antananarivo. Leaving the Elysee after a 45-minute talk with President Francois Mitterrand, Mr Ratsiraka explained: "There is no break with the IMF. Its representatives are currently in Antananarivo and we are continuing the talks." "You will hardly be surprised that there may be difficulties and divergences of opinion, he said, but for the moment there is no break as some scandal-mongers say."

The new IMF mission to the Malagsy capital delayed the meeting of the Paris Club which was to examine, for the first half of the month of February, the problem of rescheduling Madagascar's debt right after the meeting of the joint Franco-Malagasy Commission in Antananarivo at the end of January.

Questioned on the recent agreement concluded between Luanda and Pretoria on the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola, the Malagasy head of state replied: "If there is an agreement between them so that there will be no state of war, I am glad about that for the two peoples."

"All that I say, Mr Ratsiraka remarked, is that we insist on Namibia's independence and that there is no linkage between the withdrawal of South Africa from Namibia and the withdrawal of the Cubans from Angola."

In conclusion, asked whether he feared a new crisis within the OAU with respect to the Western Saharan issue, Mr Ratsiraka replied: "I think there will be another one." "But, I hope there will be none and that we are big enough to settle our problems among us and that African heads of states will manage to take their responsibilities as I have done myself."

Mr Ratsiraka has already made it known that he would not attend the next OAU summit scheduled to take place in Conakry in May if the SDAR does not participate.

The Malagasy head of state, who went to Moscow to attend the funeral of Mr Yuriy Andropov and stayed on to meet the Soviet leaders, is on a private visit to Paris.

MOZAMBIQUE

Algerian Delegation Departs After Visit

MB231436 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] A delegation of Algeria's National People's Assembly left Maputo yesterday for home after a working visit to Mozambique. Their objective was to compile information to inform the people and Government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria of the serious losses suffered by Mozambique due to the drought and floods.

In a statement to the newspaper *NOTICIAS*, (Mohammed Abdelaziz), chairman of the Committee for External Relations of the Algerian Assembly, said that after he acquainted himself with the tragedy that afflicted many Mozambicans as a result of the drought that continues to affect large parts of the country, as well as the floods that recently devastated the south, it is important to inform Algeria's Government and people to study ways to aid those hurt by these calamities.

Pan African Youth Leader Leaves After Talks

MB241111 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1700 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Oumar Diarso, secretary general of the Pan African Youth Movement, left Maputo yesterday after describing his stay in Mozambique as very fruitful with very positive meetings. During his stay here, he held a meeting with Zacarias Kupela, secretary general of the Mozambique Youth Organization, which concentrated on the future of the Pan African Youth Movement. According to Oumar Diarso, a series of proposals were formulated during the meetings which should contribute to the qualitative improvement of African Youth Movement activities.

Before visiting Mozambique, Oumar Diarso was in Angola, where he was received by President Jose Eduardo dos Santos and held talks with members of the Angolan Party Youth Wing and SWAPO.

Nujoma's Son Honors Murdered RSA Political Refugees

MB231339 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1100 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The assistant secretary general of the Pan African Youth Movement, Tony Nujoma, has called on African youth to unite for the total liberation of the continent. Mr Nujoma, who is the first son of SWAPO's president, was speaking in Maputo this morning when he laid a wreath at the grave of South African political refugees killed in Mozambique. They include the 12 ANC refugees killed in Matola in 1981 and Ruth First, who was assassinated by a letter bomb in Maputo in August 1982. Mr Nujoma said African youth must continue the fight for human rights and dignity and for independence. The ceremony was also attended by a member of the National Executive Committee of the ANC and senior officials of the Mozambique Youth Organization [OJM]. While in Mozambique, Mr Nujoma will hold talks with the OJM on the situation in southern Africa, and also visit the areas in Matola that were attacked by the South African Army and Air Force.

Commentary Says RSA Attitude Could Bring Change

MB221910 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 22 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] The people of Mozambique have been at war for 20 years, first against Portuguese colonialism and then against the Rhodesian and the South African Armies, and the armed bandits they have created and supported in training, weapons, and logistics. Thus, foreign aggression against this country has been the main characteristic of the various conflicts since 1964. In the first instance, the foreign aggressor was Portugal.

During the first 10 years of war, Mozambique's objective was to win independence from Portugal. That independence was finally won in 1975, but the aggression did not stop. The Portuguese war machine was replaced by the Rhodesian war machine and the savagery of the armed bandits. With the defeat of the Rhodesians in 1980, the South African Armed Forces took charge of the bandits and have kept the war going until now.

Mozambique has also been subjected to direct attacks by the South African Army and Air Force. It is not only in this most recent phase of Mozambique's long armed struggle that the South African state has played a hostile role. Pretoria gave active support to both Portugal and the Rhodesian regime. South Africa has therefore been involved since the beginning. All efforts to prevent Mozambique from winning independence from Portugal failed. All efforts to destroy this independence in the past 9 years have also failed. All efforts to turn this country from its socialist path have likewise failed. The People's Republic of Mozambique remains a socialist country. The Frelimo Party remains a Marxist-Leninist Party. Revolution continues. It is in this context that the talks on Monday between Mozambique and South Africa should be seen. With this week's acceptance by South Africa of some central principles concerning security arrangements between the two countries, Pretoria has committed itself to halting its 20 years of armed hostilities to Mozambique. Mozambique, for its part, has restated its commitment to the principles of peace, stability, progress, and good neighborliness.

Before leaving Maputo on Monday, South African Foreign Minister Roelof Botha expressed the view that southern African governments today seem to realize that they all stand to gain from peace. Such a position, if implemented by the South African Government, would mark a significant change in the region.

Resistance Claims New, Large-Scale Attacks

MB201442 (Clandestine) Voice of Mozambique National Resistance in Portuguese 0400 GMT 20 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] Our struggle recently assumed new, large-scale proportions. In addition to the common guerrilla tactics of staging ambushes in the rural areas, our combatants are currently carrying out large-scale, fearless attacks in a more conventional mold against important bases and concentrations of gorilla Machel's troops. Many military bases and barracks of the Machel regime have thus been destroyed.

District headquarters have fallen into the hands of our valiant fighters. We are now threatening to take control of many cities as well as some towns. In 1984, more actions of this kind will be carried out. Our fighters will spare neither towns nor hideouts of the Machel regime.

We are in the final stage of the struggle for freedom against the Machel regime's dictatorship. Most of our forces are still in rural areas, and that is the focus of our actions. Cities and towns are, however, being isolated and paralyzed.

The urban struggle has now (?begun) and the people in the towns will also rise up against their oppressors and exploiters, whether they are Frelimo members, communist mercenaries, or foreign guest workers. Machel will certainly neither win nor survive this challenge.

Under the wise leadership of Afonso Dhlakama, president and supreme commander of the Mozambique National Resistance, and following the (?guidelines) which he has given us, the people will crush their murderers and exploiters. As for those who will be on gorilla Machel's side until the last month, it will be very difficult to forgive them. The people will not forget that you are criminals who fought them until the end.

The year 1984 is only beginning. There is still time for those who want to repent and abandon the wrong path to do so. We are waiting for you so that together, as true brothers, we can win and celebrate final victory.

NAMIBIA

Nujoma Fears RSA Withdrawal Will Add to Oppression

MB231929 Maputo in English to Southern Africa 1800 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text]SWAPO leader Sam Nujoma has expressed fears that the withdrawal of South African troops from Angola would contribute to the oppression of the Namibian people, as the troops are withdrawing into Namibia. Mr Nujoma said that if this disengagement was not followed by the necessary steps to achieve the decolonization of Namibia, there would be no alternative but to continue to fight against South African occupation. A peaceful solution in Namibia required the application of UN Resolution 435, he said.

SWAPO Declines Comment on Rally Application

MB231319 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1157 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Windhoek, Feb 23, (SAPA) — SWAPO has received a reply to an application to hold a political rally in Windhoek next month, but has declined to disclose whether it had been given the go-ahead or not. "Comment and further details will be given at a later stage," a legal representative for the party said.

The movement applied last Friday to Windhoek's chief magistrate, Mr H.W. Visser, to convene a meeting on March 11 in terms of the Notification of Meetings Act. The act stipulates that political organisations have to obtain written permission from the magistrates concerned to hold public meetings. Copies of the parties' constitutions have to accompany applications.

In terms of the Meetings Act, political movements, which have as their declared objectives the violent overthrow of the existing state dispensation, are prohibited from holding public meetings.

SWAPO is not a proscribed political organisation in SWA/Namibia, but its constitution has been banned.

The planned political meeting will be SWAPO's first in more than five years in SWA/Namibia.

Voice of Namibia Calls RSA, U.S. 'Enemies'

MB221652 Lusaka Voice of Namibia in English 1830 GMT 21 Feb 84

[Station commentary: "Who Is Our Enemy"]

[Text] It is high time that we Namibians as a nation clearly identify our enemies, namely, the South African regime and also its supported imperialist allies, more particularly the present U.S. Administration headed by Ronald Reagan. We should identify our goals and political desires. We want freedom from the yoke of colonialism, oppression, exploitation, torture, killings, and other barbaric acts perpetrated upon us by the South African racists using their police, Army, and colonial officials. Today there is no freedom, democracy, and justice in Namibia, but especially for the black African majority. Namibia has become a prison, a torture house, where Namibians are kept behind the South African iron curtain and concentration camps where they suffer terribly.

We have been made prisoners in the country of our birth while many of us are forced into exile. What is more, confronted by the [word indistinct] SWAPO military actions and the active anticolonialist resistance by the Namibian masters, the racist regime has resorted to waging a campaign of terror and increase the brutal repression against the popular masses, and in particular against members and supporters of SWAPO.

Massacres have been shamefully committed in numerable places throughout the width and breadth of the Namibian and other neighboring countries by the forces of colonialism.

Dear countrymen, for how long are we going to allow violence to triumph in our motherland? For how long are we going to allow the injustice of the minority to prevail over the overwhelming desires and aspirations of the majority? For how long is South Africa going to carry out her criminal atrocities against the northern Namibian people? We cannot allow the imperialists to behave as they like in our country. Namibia is ours, and we must rule it ourselves. No imperialist, and nobody else for that matter, will tell us what to do. We are the masters of our own destiny. We must build a strong state which will ensure equal rights, complete freedom, and happiness to all Namibians. These are not simple dreams, but are objectives which we set ourselves to achieve and for which thousands of Namibians laid down their lives, and for which we are still sacrificing our lives.

It is quite clear that racist South Africa has dismally failed in its [word indistinct] and criminal [word indistinct] against the struggling Namibian masses led by SWAPO. One merely hopes that racist Pretoria and its imperialist allies have now at least learned that it is impossible to destroy SWAPO because in Namibia, SWAPO is the people and the people are SWAPO. We want to make it clear to the Pretoria racists that gone are the days when they arrogantly used to practice and decide for us. Mr Botha should know whether his party in Namibia [words indistinct] of the Namibian people or not. It is highly irrelevant to us. Namibian people are demanding free and fair democratic elections under UN supervision and control. We in SWAPO are ready to submit ourselves to the verdict of the Namibian people.

SOUTH AFRICA

Pik Botha Expresses Concern Over SWAPO Advances

MB240656 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] The South African Government says that it has learned that about 800 SWAPO terrorists are moving southwards from Angola and that 200 of them have already crossed the border into South-West Africa. The minister of foreign affairs, Mr Pik Botha, says in a statement issued in Cape Town that he has sent messages to the American and Angolan Governments expressing South Africa's concern about SWAPO's refusal to abide by the agreement reached between South Africa and Angola. In the messages he notes the government's view that SWAPO's action could jeopardize the peace efforts of the two countries. The South African security forces, he says, will continue to take action against the terrorists, and he has proposed that the joint monitoring force should convene immediately to discuss the mounting danger.

Mr Botha says in the statement that so far this month 41 terrorists have been shot and killed in Ovambo and Western Kavango by the security forces. Various acts of sabotage have been perpetrated in Ovambo by groups of terrorists.

Among the most pressing problems discussed during the talks in Lusaka, was the danger that certain elements within the ranks of SWAPO would upset the understanding reached between the South African and Angolan Governments. Mr Botha said that in his talks with the Angolan delegation he disclosed details of some 400 SWAPO terrorists who were moving southwards in groups from Angola towards the South-West African border. At that stage 20 of the terrorists had already crossed the border. He also disclosed that South Africa had evidence of the groups having received orders from their commanders to penetrate South-West Africa and commit acts of violence.

The Angolan Government was told that SWAPO's activities could jeopardize the South African-Angolan agreement since the South African forces would continue to take action against the intruders carrying out hot pursuit operations if necessary.

Mr Botha says the Angolan delegation assured him that its government would abide by the agreement. The delegation moreover informed him that a day or two before the Lusaka meeting SWAPO leaders were told at the highest level that SWAPO should observe the conditions of any agreement reached between SouthAfrica and Angola. The Angolan Government, it was indicated, would not allow SWAPO to act in violation of Angolan pledges. It was suggested by the delegation that the specific SWAPO groups assembling at points not under Angolan control at the time had begun moving southwards before the 31st of last month, the date on which South Africa was to begin disengagement.

Mr Botha says he told the Angolan Government that he understood the problem it was confronted with. Nevertheless it had to realise that the South African forces would not tolerate the planned infiltration and that South Africa reserved the right to take effective action. For this reason, he urged that the joint monitoring commission should begin work immediately.

Mr Botha says it was his view that the mistrust regarding each other's motives should be reduced, and that the Governments of South Africa and Angola should require the joint means of examining allegations of breaches of the agreement [as heard] and avoiding a fresh outbreak of hostilities with incalculable consequences for both. The Angolan Government, he adds, agreed with his standpoint.

Joint Commission on Angola To Meet 25 Feb

MB241008 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1000 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Excerpts] Cape Town, Feb 24, SAPA — The joint monitoring commission on the South African-Angolan peace agreement is to meet in southern Angola tomorrow, the Department of Foreign Affairs confirmed in a press statement in Cape Town today. The meeting follows last night's call for an urgent meeting of the commission by the foreign minister, Mr Pik Botha, in the light of what he said was information that 800 SWAPO terrorists were moving into southern Angola in the wake of the start of South Africa's troop disengagement there and that 200 of them had already crossed in SWA/Namibia. This was a serious threat to the peace agreement, Mr Botha said.

The Department of Foreign Affairs statement today said South Africa would be represented on the commission tomorrow by Brigadier J.M. Dippenaar of the South African Defence Force, Mr Derek Auret of the Department of Foreign Affairs, and SADF Commandants W.J. le Crerar, P.D. Uys, and J. Kuhn. The commission's meeting would also be attended by Mr D.W. Steward of the department and the SADF's General Jannie Geldenhuys and Brig J. Joubert. Tomorrow's meeting will be the commission's second. It met for the first time in Lusaka on February 16.

Opposition Leader Praises Government's New Style

MB231802 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The leader of the opposition, Dr Van Zyl Slabbert, said in the House of Assembly that there were encouraging signs of a new style of negotiation politics in the government. Breakthroughs were being made in relations with neighboring states and these heralded what he called an exciting new era with greater hope for peace. Nevertheless, although all parties agreed that self-determination without domination was both desirable and possible in South Africa, there were differences as to how this should be achieved.

Buthelezi on Normalization Talks in Region

MB231222 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] The chief minister of Kwazulu, Chief Buthelezi, says negotiations aimed at normalizing relations between countries in

southern Africa constitute a vindication of his and Inkatha's policy, which favors negotiation. Interviewed by the South African Broadcasting Corporation, Chief Buthelezi said he had been condemned in the past by certain elements in the country for negotiating with the South African Governemnt, and he had been labeled a stooge. Because of the negotiations among southern African countries, the same people who had called him a stooge would have to refer to other black leaders in the region who have negotiated with South Africa as stooges.

Turning to the effects on the ANC of a normalization of relations in southern Africa, Chief Buthelezi said the organization's position would become worse. He said that once the ANC disappeared from southern African countries after normalization, it would be difficult for the organization to send insurgents into the region with bombs. Chief Buthelezi emphasized that it was not in the interests of South Africa that the country's problems should be resolved through violence.

Peace Moves Reflect Re-evaluation of Relations

MB240825 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Station commentary]

[Text] It is becoming clear that the implications of the peace initiatives between South Africa, Mozambique, and Angola extend well beyond the immediate interests of those three states. The fast growing chorus of support throughout Southern Africa evidences thorough deliberation on a regional scale, and that suggests a fundamental re-evaluation among governments of economic and security policies and hence, of relations with the Soviet Union, the West, and South Africa.

Government spokesmen have been expressing unqualified satisfaction over the prospect of agreements that will have among their practical effects a prohibition on ANC and SWAPO terrorism from Mozambique and Angola. President Nyerere of Tanzania regards the latest developments as hopeful, and Prime Minister Mugabe of Zimbabwe welcomes them, on the strength of assurances from Maputo and Luanda, as an augury of peace. President Kaunda goes so far as to declare that if the Angolan troop withdrawal is successful and leads to independence for South-West Africa, South Africa would be welcomed as a member of the OAU and the Southern African Development Coordination Conference.

Meanwhile, from the countries themselves come increasingly explicit statements about their commitments under the envisaged agreements. Mr Aquino de Braganca, adviser to President Machel, has said in a radio interview that the undeclared war with South Africa is over and the ANC can no longer count on Mozambique as a base from which to launch its operations. Angola's minister of the interior, Colonel Rodrigues, told a news conference that South Africa was keeping its part of the bargain and Angola would do the same by preventing SWAPO terrorists from entering the vacated areas of southern Angola.

For some time before the present initiatives, commentators have been noting signs of a transition to a new approach in Southern Africa and speculating on the reasons. Drought and the affects of world recession on export prices have brought economies to the brink of collapse. The countries' plight highlighted both the inadequacy of alliances with the Soviet Union and the fact that only the West had the means and the will to help. Acting on that perception was facilitated by changes taking place in the sphere of security.

The Soviet Union has been losing the image of invincibility gained by moving Cuban forces almost unopposed into Angola. After 8 years those forces are further than ever from quelling internal opposition; and, the umbrella of security pledged by the Reagan administration to American allies around the world has gradually restored confidence among small countries in their ability to withstand Soviet advances.

Finally, in both spheres — the economy and security — it has become increasingly clear that stability and development dictate a policy of peaceful cooperation with South Africa. Confrontation has been a disaster, not because South Africa is the economic and military giant of the region — which of course did render it futile — but because of the inescapable realities of geographic and infrastructural interdependence. A long road full of pitfalls lies between the current initiatives and the goal of genuine cooperation, but a giant step along it has been taken.

Paper Stresses Positive U.S. Role in Lusaka Talks

MB221709 Pretoria DIE TRANSVALER in Afrikaans 17 Feb 84 6

[Editorial: "The Lusaka Talks"]

[Text] One thing is clear from the deliberations which began yesterday in Lusaka among South Africa, Angola, and America: America's seriousness about defusing the war situation in southern Angola and creating, in the process, a climate for final negotiations over the constitutional future of South-West Africa.

South Africa opened the door to the latest initiative by its military withdrawal from southern Angola. Now, through persistent diplomacy, America has succeeded in bringing Angola and South Africa to the conference table. And in this way, the basis for a further breakthrough has been created.

The fact that America is represented at the Lusaka talks by Dr Chester Crocker, assistant secretary for African Affairs, is proof of Washington's determination to end the confrontation between South Africa and Angola. In this way, an important stumbling block will be removed from the road to peace in South-West Africa.

This doesn't mean that speedy progress must be expected towards a final settlement in South-West Africa. The problem is too involved for that, especially bearing in mind that the Cuban presence in Angola remains the major contentious issue. The notable successes of Dr Jonas Savimbi's UNITA forces will make the Marxist regime think twice before sending the Cubans home. And then there is Russia's direct interest in the latest event.

The tripartite meeting in Lusaka is evidently aimed at creating a kind of no-mans-land in southern Angola, which will be monitored by a neutral peace force.

For South-West Africa, this would provide the assurance that no SWAPO terrorist bands will be able to infiltrate its northern frontier. But this depends on SWAPO itself accepting such an arrangement.

Thus, in the wider context, it remains an issue which can only be solved by calm negotiation. And in the process, the diplomatic principle of give-and-take will have to be accepted, and this applies to South Africa as well. We don't hold all the trump cards.

As long as the atmosphere at the negotiations is positive, progress is possible.

Too much is at stake. Eventual peace in South-West Africa and better relations between South Africa and its neighbors is not too high a price, which is why all the interested parties in Lusaka must pin their hopes on fruitful discussions.

DAILY MAIL Interviews Bophuthatswana President

MB211354 Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 21 Feb 84 p 9

[By Patrick Laurence, political editor]

[Text] Seated in his new office in Mmabatho, President Lucas Mangope of Bophuthatswana hesitated momentarily before replying in his understated manner.

"Well, that is a very difficult question," he said. "It is actually difficult to see even a year ahead."

President Mangope, who recently celebrated his 60th birthday, had been asked how he saw the next 10 years and what his hopes and aspirations were for the coming decade?

"But I am at present working on an amendment to our Constitution," he continued. "I would like the president to be elected directly by the people, and not by the National Assembly, as at present.

"We have a congress of my party on March 11 and I hope that it will be adopted.

"I have already consulted with my very good constitutional adviser, Professor Marinus Wiechers. He has suggested what amendment to make to the Constitution.

"I feel if we do that, I will have attempted to show that I really believe in democracy.

"My vision for the next 10 years is that I must strengthen what I have started with the creation in Bophuthatswana of a non-racial society. I must show that I really believe in human rights."

Referring by implication to Bophuthatswana's legally enforcable Declaration of Human Rights, President Mangope — who was born into the old ruling class of chiefs — added: "I have already attempted to demonstrate my belief in human rights. But I want to further strengthen on the base that I have laid."

President Mangope, who led Bophuthatswana to "greater independence" in December 1977, turned to South Africa and its pending new constitution for whites, coloureds, and Indians.

"I know what changes are taking place in South Africa through the new constitution. I do not accept it...because, in my opinion, it merely entrenches what we have already experienced. Coloureds and Indians have always been privileged. Among my people, those of little intelligence have always played coloured in order to gain access to those privileges.

I believe very firmly in what we started at the Umtata summit (of black leaders) in 1973, when we decided to work for a federal system of government in South Africa. I still believe very, very strongly of that. [as published]

"I am sure, you know, that on February 3 I met the Prime Minister of South Africa and his members of Cabinet who will be looking at what dispensation should apply to urban blacks in South Africa. I have very firm views on that issue."

Castigating the denial of full political rights to blacks in South Africa, he said: "I don't see the sense in that. I have always said people should exercise their choice as to what country they want to be citizens of."

He reaffirmed his often stated conviction that the nearly 1.5 million Botswana who live permanently in South Africa should not be compelled to become Bophuthatswana citizens, but free to choose to remain South African citizens with full citizenship rights.

But I go back to what I said. I hope that before the end of the next 10 years, I hope we all will be in a federation...I cannot envisage a federation which excludes South Africa.

"Now that South Africa is talking to us about the future of urban blacks, it is, I believe, the time to talk to Pretoria about a federation."

Looking back on the past 10 years, President Mangope said: "Well, what I am going to say will surprise you. I feel that we took our independence 10 years later than we should have. I think independence enabled us to show what we are capable of doing and brought out the leadership qualitites in our people.

"It is unfortunate that we had problems with South Africa. We still have problems on consolidation, on television. [as published]

"But if these problems were solved earlier, I am sure, we would have done wonders."

President Mangope denied that there was a contradiction between opting for independence for Bophuthatswana in 1977 and striving for the creation of a non-racial federal South Africa by 1994.

By accepting independence, Bophuthatswana could create an "alternative, non-racial society" which would serve both as a model for the units of the proposed federation and act as a catalyst for change toward non-racialism in South Africa as a whole.

"I have always, even before independence, believed in the federal system of government," President Mangope said.

Of the proposed federation of South Africa, he said: "It must be totally free of discrimination. It must have as its base a free enterprise system, not as we have known it in South Africa, where we blacks have subsidised the economy."

One of Bophuthatswana's most spectacular achievements since independence was the launching of its own television service — BOP-TV — on January 31 this year. The achievement was, however, based on an agreement with South Africa which restricted both the content of BOP-TV and the areas which it could reach in South Africa.

"Well, you know, the negotiations for launching our television service were very, very protracted," President Mangope said.

"If I had not decided to sign the agreement, I don't think we would ever have got the television service. We are not internationally recognised and could not apply to Geneva for our own channels.

"We would have got bogged down on whether to use English or Setswana which we had been arguing over with South Africa for four or five years."

South Africa, according to President Mangope vetoed plans to build a tower to beam television into the densely-populated Rand and Pretoria areas from Boschfontein, near Rustenburg.

"I am unhappy about Boschfontein...and I am going to state so in no uncertain terms to the South African Cabinet Committee when it comes to Bophuthatswana.

"But I am not despondent because, even as our television is now structured, it still serves a purpose.

"In terms of the contrac, we are not debarred from building a tower in Ga-Rankua, which could have exactly the same effect as a tower at Boschfontein. (Ga-Rankua is situated in Bophuthatswana, but only 35 km from Pretoria).

"I was in Israel. They get programmes from Jordan, and vice-versa. We get South African television services in Bophuthatswana. "Even now — and we are looking at that — if we had a tower in Ga-Rankua people in South Africa can watch our programmes....

"I look at people as people. But to get a service, I had to do things which were acceptable to those who had the power to grant me the channel. I am not ashamed to say this. In terms of their policy, I had only to address my people. In order to get a service, I had to accept that. Otherwise, I would never have got off the ground."

Recent scholarship has raised questions about the role of President Mangope during the unrest among Botswana in 1957-58, triggering Pretoria's decision to extend passes to women in the Zeerust area.

There was fierce resistance from the community, but certain chiefs — among them the Mangope chiefdom of Motswedi — sided with the authorities and tried to persuade — and force — women to accept passes.

President Mangope was invited to comment on the account given by Mr Tome Lodge in his recent book "Black Politics in South Africa since 1945."

According to Mr Lodge, the Mangopes gained political office "through government patronage" because of their support for passes and "material wealth" by finding Motswedi villagers who burned their passes or refused to become bodyguards.

"At this time, my father was chief and I was a teacher at Motswedi and not much in politics," President Mangope said.

"There was a lot of rioting at the time over the reference books for women. I really did not take part in either persuading people to accept reference books or not to accept reference books. But the regional authority which then existed decided that, because of the hardships people were going through at that time, people had to choose whether to accept them or not.

"It was a very, very difficult period. Difficult because, as a teacher, one was regarded as siding with authorities."

President Mangope succeeded his father — also named Lucas Mangope — as chief in August 1959.

Mr Lodge averred that, shortly after talking over the newly-installed Chief Mangope junior "delighted his critics" by saying to the then Minister of Bantu Administration: "Lead us and we shall try to crawl."

President Mangope denied using those words.

He went on to recall that he had been responsible for the reinstatement of one of the chiefs who had been deposed for his opposition to passes for women, Chief Abram Moiloa.

"I actually pleaded with the South African authorities that he be brought back and I reinstated him as a chief," President Mangope said.

Three Explosions Damage Power Installation

MB241105 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1059 GMT 24 Feb 84

[Text] Pietermaritzburg, Feb 24, (SAPA) — Three explosions ripped through the ESCOM power installation at Georgedale Township, Hammarsdale near Pietermaritzburg last night. The explosions occurred in quick succession at about midnight.

A senior spokesman at the SAP headquarters in Pretoria said damage to the installation was not extensive and there was no loss of electrical services. No injuries were reported in the explosions, believed to have been inside the security fence surrounding the installation next to the Georgedale railway station.

The spokesman said police investigations are still being conducted as to the type of explosive device used. No one has so far claimed responsibility for the explosions.

Black Foreigners Also Liable To Pay Income Tax

MB231219 Johannesburg Domestic Service in English 1115 GMT 23 Feb 84

[Text] Black foreigners, such as citizens of Botswana, Lesotho, and Swaziland who are in possession of valid traveling documents, will also be liable to pay South African income tax from 1 March. According to a circular issued by the Directorate of Internal Revenue, and which will be dispatched to about 120,000 employers and trade unions next week, these people were not subject to income tax under the present Black Taxation Act. All black foreigners will not, however, fall under the new system. For instance, South Africa has entered into labor agreements with countries such as Mozambique and Malawi, in terms of which South Africa does not levy taxes on income by citizens of those countries, if they are employed temporarily under a service contract.